STARS STRIPES.

Bush named Time's Person of the Year



High-flying Vick rescues Falcons against Panthers



Analyst plans recreational trips for injured troops

Spotlight, Page 4

Page 13 Volume 63. No. 247

© SS 2004

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004

Car bombings in Najaf, Karbala kill at least 60



Iraqi election workers gunned down in Baghdad street

STARS STRIPES. COMING



Scene on Sunday

How to make trailer feel like home



Adam Sandler stars in 'Spanglish'

Don't miss a single issue.

For home delivery. call DSN 349-8437



TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox24 American Roundup18-19 Classified25-27 Comics22-24 Crossword23 Horoscope22	
Letters14	
Opinion15	
Sports28-36	
TV listings20	
Weather17	
Your Money16	

ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Gay marriage controversy: Social Security Administration officials have begun to reject marriage documents from New Paltz, N.Y., that were issued after Feb. 27, when the village's mayor, Jason West, started performing wedding

ceremonies for gay couples.

The policy is part of a document called "Evidence of Identity for an SSN Card," which dictates what documents can be used to obtain a Social Security Card. But the agency stopped recognizing marriage certificates in New Paltz for that purpose after the February date. The agency says in the policy that the legality of the documents is 'unresolved at the state level.

Eric Rudolph trial: A federal judge has ruled that investigators properly seized evidence from bombing suspect Eric Rudol-ph's trailer and shed in North Carolina, making it admissible at trial.

Rudolph's attorneys had argued that federal agents improperly seized items such as books, a sales receipt, \$1,600 in cash, two daggers, bayonets and pistols, which were not within the scope of the search warrants.

But prosecutors said Rudolph had aban-doned his property to go into hiding in the North Carolina wilderness after he was linked to the 1998 bombing of a Birmingham. Ala., abortion clinic that killed an off-duty police officer and injured a nurse.

Pauline Gore funeral: Former Vice President Al Gore remembered his mother at her funeral Saturday as an inspiring role model for women who believed education was the 'key to freedom in life."

"She wanted everyone to personally feel

the enlightenment from knowledge that she had felt in her own life," Gore said of Pauline LaFon Gore, who died Wednesday at the age of 92.

More than 200 people attended the funeral at the United Methodist Church in Carthage, Tenn., a small town about 50 miles east of Nashville where the Gore family owns a farm.

Business

Anti-spamming lawsuit: A federal judge has awarded an Internet service provider more than \$1 billion in what is believed to be the largest judgment ever against spam-

Robert Kramer, whose company provides e-mail service for about 5,000 subscribers in eastern Iowa, filed suit against 300 spammers after his inbound mail servers received up to 10 million spam e-mails a day in 2000, according to court documents.

U.S. District Judge Charles R. Wolle filed default judgments Friday against three of the defendants under the Federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act and the Iowa Ongoing Criminal Con-

World

North Korea sanctions: Japan's foreign minister warned North Korea on Sunday to recognize that it is running out of time to halt its nuclear weapons programs before Tokyo and its allies decide to impose economic sanctions on the isolated communist

At a summit meeting in southern Japan Friday, Japan's prime minister promised



Palestinian presidential election: International European Observers for the Palestinian Authority presidential election leave the Grand Park Hotel Sunday in the West Bank town of Ramallah, heading into various Palestinian cities. Forty-two long-term observers from the European Union Election Observation Mission to the West Bank and Gaza have arrived in Ramallah for the forthcoming Palestinian Authority presidential election.

South Korea's president that Tokyo would hold off imposing economic sanctions on North Korea for now. North Korea said last week it would treat sanctions as a "declaration of war."

But Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura said Pyongyang wasn't off the hook yet.

"North Korea needs to recognize that it doesn't have much time left," Machimura said during a talk show aired by public broadcaster NHK, adding: "As for setting a specific date as the deadline, we're still considering whether to declare one.

Palestinian prisoners: Israel on Sunday approved the release of 170 Palestinian prisoners in a goodwill gesture toward Egypt and the new Palestinian leadership, officials said, but a Palestinian official dismissed the Israeli move as "cosmetic." News of the prisoner release came hours

after Israel ended a two-day military operation in the southern Gaza Strip, leaving dozens of Palestinian homes in rubble. The prisoner release was part of a deal

with Egypt this month that brought home an Israeli jailed by Cairo on espionage charges. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Sun-

day's decision by a ministerial committee a "goodwill gesture" and spoke of "deep friendship" for Egyptian President Hosni Muharak

Australia Embassy attack: The Muslim militants accused of bombing Australia's Embassy in Indonesia stopped to pray at a mosque next to a government ministry moments before they carried out the attack, police revealed Sunday.

The disclosure came during a police re-construction of the group's alleged move-ments ahead of the Sept. 9 blast, which killed 10 people, one of them apparently a suicide bomber, and injured more than 100.

It came days after foreign governments

warned that Islamic militants were planning more attacks on Western targets in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim

Haiti government standoff: In a move ap-

plying both force and appeasement, officials of the beleaguered interim government said Saturday that they had ended an armed standoff with soldiers of the disbanded Haitian army by promising them back wages and jobs in exchange for their weapons.

While more radical elements of the demobilized army remained at large, the govern ment of interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue and the head of U.N. peacekeeping forces cast the bloodless settlement of the latest security crisis as a resolute display of commitment to disarm any faction menacing public order.

Fighting in Sudan: Sudan's government kept up attacks on rebels in Darfur, defying a deadline set by African Union mediators for an end to active hostilities. AU officials

AU mediators at peace talks being held in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, gave Sudan and rebel delegates a 24-hour ultimatum Friday

to stop fighting by 6 p.m. Saturday or face pos-sible referral to the U.N. Security Council. AU spokesman Assane Ba told reporters government helicopters were attacking the town of Labado. But Sudan's government claimed it was defending against an insur-

gent offensive.

War on terrorism

Gitmo tribunals: Two prisoners with alleged ties to the al-Qaida terrorist network

appeared Saturday before a U.S. military re-view tribunal in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. One detainee, whose age was unknown, was accused of shooting an Afghan militia-man and two civilians in 2003, said Navy Lt.

Gary Ross, a spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals. Afghan militia-men captured the detainee a year ago after a shootout and grenade battle, Ross said.

Regional and factional militias helped the United States rout the Taliban in late 2001. The militias are being disarmed under a U.N.-sponsored peace plan, and the United States and its allies are training a new Afghan army

Stories and photo from wire services



You'll feel warm all over with some **Holiday Cash**

From Service Credit Union

74" 35 basis point discount silable with direct deposit and automatic loan payment Contact us for details APPLY TODAY!



00800-4728-2000

NCUA

Cold weather perfect for battle anniversary

For Battle of the Bulge re-enactors. dressing up is their 'tribute' to vets

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY Stars and Stripes

BASTOGNE, Belgium - Much like it did 60 years ago, the weath er finally broke Sunday for those assembled in the Ardennes, allowing events to unfold according to

It may not have been as cold and as snowy as it was during the Battle of the Bulge, but the past couple of days have had an edge to them. On Sunday, the final day for commemorative ceremonies marking the historic battle, the skies parted and the sun surfaced just in time to allow 19 American re-enactors to parachute over the grounds of the Mardasson, the village's World War II memorial park.

"The jump was nice, a little windy though," said Jan Patronek, the first man to leap out of the vintage Dakota aircraft. "It was colder in the airplane than on the ground."

Up until the last hour, the noontime jump was touch and go due to a low blanket of clouds. The weather in Belgium and Luxembourg over the past few days has been cold and windy. Coupled with the snow that fell Friday, conditions in the Ardennes region are similar to what soldiers and their allies endured 60 years ago.

"We have to share the pleasures," cracked Stephan Hadjadie. a French re-enactor who watched the parachute jump

The pleasure has been all Bastogne's

Thousands of residents turned out Saturday night for an outdoor sound and light show, a show that yanked people back to the tenuous days of the war. Except for several searchlights scouring the heavens, all lights downtown extinguished to heighten the effect. Prerecorded sounds of gunfire and bombs echoed through the streets. The show ended with an impressive fireworks display

In addition to the parachute jump, Sunday's itinerary included a church service in Noville and a ceremony in the hamlets of Baugnez honoring a group of American prisoners executed by their German captors.

U.S. Marine Corps Gen. James Jones, the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, attended the

The weekend concluded with a two-hour parade of WWII vintage vehicles through the city of Bas-

"Many of us still remember, said Hadiadie, one of 24 Frenchmen, who spent the weekend clad in period military clothing. Dressing up "is our tribute to the guys who did it '

Anniversaries such as this one always draw hundreds of re-enactors. Usually, they only dress the part, but Hadjadje and his group took their passion one cold step further. Friday night found them digging foxholes in the Breuchy woods, southwest of Bastogne. Believe it or not they stayed put, oc-casionally going out "on patrol," mostly to warm up.

"We didn't sleep, not at all," Hadjadje said.

"It was cold, and it was wet." added Anton Holgerson, a Frenchman whose father served in the U.S. Navy during the war. "But it was also a good experience to see how they lived."

A half hour earlier one of today's sailors spied another group of re-enactors making their way toward the Mardasson.

Navy Cmdr. Tim Trampenau and his young son came to Bastogne for the day from Stuttgart, Germany. Two other dad-son teams joined them as part of a casual outing for their local Webelos den.

"They have fun with it, which seems kind of strange to us, Trampenau said of the re-enactors. He then smiled: "Why don't



Above: Re-enactors with U.S. World War II military vehicles wait before they parade at the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in the city center of Bastogne, Belgium, on Saturday. King Albert II and other dignitaries marked the anniversary by honoring thousands of American soldiers who died fighting Nazi Germany's desperate bid to stop the Allied advance. Right: People look at paratroopers as they jumped out of a military aircraft close to the WWII Mardasson War Memorial monu ment on Sunday.

they dress up as French or Belgium guys?

Trampenau then answered his own question, noting that people the world over like to be associated with winners. But men and women who participated in the war epitomized the term winner by anyone's standard.

One of the millions of vets from was

94-year-old father, Walter, who served in the Pacific theater.

"It's been a busy year, three trips to Europe," said Patronek, eluding to earlier commemorations in Normandy, France, and

Patronek, a resident of Oklahoma and a member of a WWII airborne demonstration team, posed for pictures with people after his jump. He was a popular man, and even more popular once he started talking to the locals about his

"The respect and gratitude they show us when we come here is heart warming," Patronek said. "It's probably the greatest re-

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at:



Italian Carabinieri members Antonio Altavilla, left, and Cosimo Visconti. center, visit with staff members at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany on Thursday, a little more than a year after the soldiers were admitted to the hospital with critical injuries.

Carabinieri visit Landstuhl to thank American doctors

BY BEN MURRAY Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany - When Italian Carabinieri member Antonio Altavilla came to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in November 2003, doctors had doubts that he would leave alive Critically wounded during a suicide bomb attack

in Nasiriyah, Iraq, which killed 17 of his comrades, Altavilla's lungs and liver were badly injured, and he was bleeding internally. "We thought at least three or four times that he

wasn't going to make it." said Col. Tyler Putnam. Chief of General and Specialty Surgery at Landstuhl. "Literally for a month it was nip and tuck. [He had] the highest injury severity score you can Likewise, Cosimo Visconti, another Carabinieri in-

jured in the attack, could have spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

But Altavilla and Visconti both walked into Landstuhl with smiles on their faces Thursday in what hospital officials said was the first-ever return visit by foreign soldiers treated at the American facility. The two Italians, fully recovered from their injuries, wanted to personally thank the doctors and "see the faces of the people who helped him," Altavilla said through an interpreter.

The two men walked through several wings of the hospital, shaking hands with staff members and meeting people from the intensive care unit, which treated them when they first arrived.

The visit was a rare opportunity for hospital staff to see the results of their work, Putnam said, because Landstuhl often acts as a way station for critical patients being moved to stateside hospitals.

"It's incredible," he said. "It's a great morale hooster?

E-mail Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.estripes.osd.mi

Bamberg childcare options running thin

Moves leave day-care program short on workers

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

BAMBERG, Germany - Bamberg's Child Development Center and Family Child Care Program knows how difficult it is to find a babysitter.

The center operates with only half of its 20 positions filled, and it will lose nine of its 11 family caregivers when 1st Infantry Division returns from Iraq and goes on block leave in February, according to Lily Markey and Elizabeth Marriott.

Markey is the Child and Youth Services coordinator and Marriott is the acting Family Child Care director and trainer for the 279th Base Support Battalion on Warner Rarracks

"We always have some positions unfilled, maybe two or three, but 50 percent is not normal," Markey said.

She attributes the shortage, in part, to fallout from the summer permanent change of station, or PCS, season: the time of year when many families move to new assignments to avoid taking their kids out

of school midyear. Other contributing factors, she said, include families going to the States while their soldiers are deployed to Iraq.

"We don't have a large pool of civilians

to draw from, so we really rely on family members to fill these positions," she said.

Currently, organizers are planning for the 1st ID's return and impact of losing all but two of their workers.

"We are looking for subproviders to cover for when that happens," Marriott said. Child and Youth Services in Bamberg

currently has 42 children registered for day care, and there are nine children on the waiting list.

If a baby boom hits Bamberg when the more than 1,000 soldiers from Warner Barracks deployed to Iraq reunite with their families, as it has in other military communities, there could be many more infants added to the waiting list, Markey said.

To become a child-care provider in one's own home, a person must submit to a background check. The check looks primarily for any instances of spousal or child abuse in an applicant's past. There is a credit check, but that is not necessarily a deciding factor in an applicant's hire.

"I think we only have one or two derogatory background checks a year," Marriott

In that instance, a quality review board comprised of representatives from the Judge Advocate General's Office, Provost Marshal Office, Social Work Services and



Wilmarie Ortiz, 16 months, helps Allison Tucker unload the dishwasher Friday at Tucker's home in Bamberg, Germany. Tucker is a family child-care provider on Warner Barracks, and cares for seven children in her home.

Child and Youth Services convene to determine whether the results warrant refusing employment, Markey said.

"Most of the time, it was just a dumb kid thing that someone did years ago, and it won't stop them from being hired," Marri-

At home, child-care providers can care for up to six children with no more than two infants and no more than three children under age 3, Marriott said

All family members in the home over age 12 have to go through a background check as well. Marriott said.

Allison Tucker has been a child-care pro-

vider since 2002, but took a one-year break while her husband was deployed.

"It's something you have to discuss with the family first, because there are things you are required to have in the home. Tucker said

Her living room is sectioned off to accommodate children, and all guests who visit while she has children over have to sign a log sheet.

"I love my job; it's wonderful," she said, while playing with 16-month-old Wilmarie Ortiz, one of her charges. "I get paid to do

E-mail Rick Emert at: emertr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Intel analyst gives wounded troops a chance to forget their troubles

By WARD SANDERSON Stars and Stripes

William Black has been there before himself: Hot lands where the desert sands seep from dun to red with blood spilled in war.

For the retired Marine infantry and tactical intelligence man those lands were the Persian Gulf and Lebanon Luckily timed leave saved him from the Beirut embassy bombing in 1983 that killed 63 people. A car chase with Lebanese intelligence officers saw his damarmored car squealing around corners at 90 miles per hour. He's heard the whoosh of a rocket-propelled grenade over his

"I've been in a bunch of shooting matches," Black said, quickly adding that he implies no bravado "I'm no hero, and I know what fear is. I know what being in fear for an extended time can do to you.

That's why Black, now a civilian analyst with the Army's 66th Mili tary Intelligence Group, decided to start sending troops down the river - the Rhine River, that is. Black took Bob Hope's strategy and began showing injured troops a good time to speed their recovery. During the past year he's taken about 150 troops out of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and onto Rhine cruises. The troops dine, sip wine and see

"I can't lead Marines in combat anymore. That's over for me," Black said. "But I'll be damned if I can't help pick up the pieces."

He calls the program Wounded Warrior, And though Black down-



Participants of the Wounded Warrior program offer a toast to the camera during their tour of the Rhine River valley. Retired Marine William Black, bottom left, is a civilian analyst for the 66th Military Intelligence Group in Greisheim, Germany

plays any dents in his wallet, colleagues say he initially paid for much of this himself. It costs about \$1,000 to organize each tour group, which typically includes about a dozen injured.

"It's a great program, and being a former Marine, he's got a big heart," said Warrant Officer 2 Alan Morano, the 66th's counterterrorism chief. "He's really been the driving force behind this ... it helps soldiers tremendously. They open up. They laugh. They break down. They cry. They run the whole spectrum.

Some troops have lost limbs or suffered severe facial burns or lost vision. Others endure conventional woes, everything from kidnev stones to heart murmurs. One woman was recovering from a compacted spine after months of wearing battle rattle. One injured Marine who recently took the cruise had refused to leave Iraq until Fallujah fell.

Landstuhl spokeswoman Marie Shaw said the cruise patients are all well enough to go on a day trip. but not far along enough to go home or return to the front.

"Those people don't have to have constant medical supervi-sion." Shaw said.

Black chose the Rhine as therapy because he grew up in Germany and now lives in the hamlet of Kiedrich along its banks. He said he has long loved that valley.





Black Black created the Wounded Warrior program which takes recovering troops out

of their heds at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and gives them a tour along the Rhine River.

Job: Analyst, 66th Military Intelligence Group, Griesheim, Germany

Hometown: The son of Air Force employees, he grew up in Wiesbaden, Germany.

"It's the quiet, the opportunity for them to reflect a little bit on something other than being sick, a war, and them being away from their families," Black said.

He and his wounded warriors start out at Sankt Goar and spend the day ogling Cinderella castles, vines and gables, and half-timbered houses that look as if they're made from gingerbread. They stop at Black's favorite restaurant in Kiedrich, where the owner charges them 10 euro a plate for a 30-euro meal and his wife will cut an injured Marine's steak like a mother would for her child. A vintner gives them samples of local

Troops leave the hospital fraz-zled and jumpy. On the bus to the river, the troops are still alert for

insurgents.

"They're looking for people on bridges," Black said. They're watching for car bombs. As the day unfolds the troops relax and begin to remember what

it's like to feel normal in a normal "They're much more positive, more carefree," said 1st Lt. Jacob MacGregor, the officer in charge

of Landstuhl's medical transition detachment. "They kind of realize there's more to life than what they've been through. The 66th now hosts weekly fund-

raisers to pay for the cruises so Black doesn't have to. And they're successful. A hot dog sale made \$900. Privates were donating as much as \$50. Black has found that he gets something besides satisfaction out of the trips, too: The troops tell him what it's really like on the ground, which aids him in his intel job.

Black's baby of an idea has grown up. Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, former commander of coalition forces in Iraq, even went along once.

But the true measure of Wounded Warrior comes from the quiet remarks of troops suddenly forgetful of bleak landscapes of blood and sand

"Omigod." Black troops saying, blinking in disbelief at the shore. "Look at the trees."

At least 60 killed in suicide car bombings

Blasts hit Najaf, Karbala an hour apart; in Baghdad, 3 election workers executed in street

By Ardiil Hussein AL-OBEIDI

NAJAF, Iraq - Car bombs exploded Sunday at a Naiaf funeral procession and Karbala's main bus station, killing at least 60 people and wounding more than 120 in apparently coordinated attacks in Iraq's holiest Shiite cities. Dozens of gunmen roamed a main street in downtown Baghdad, killing three Iraqi election workers in a vicious attack designed to disrupt next month's parliamentary ballot

The deadly strikes highlighted the apparent ability of the insurgents to launch attacks almost at will, striking in the heart of Baghdad and in numerous other cities despite confident assessments by military commanders that they had regained the initiative after last month's campaign against militants in Fallujah.

The bombings in Najaf and Karbala, predominantly Shiite cities 45 miles from each other south of Baghdad, came just over an hour apart. The first was a suicide hlast that rinned through minibus es at the entrance of to Karbala's main bus station, followed by a car bomb in a central Najaf square crowded with people watching a funeral procession attended by the city police chief and provincial governor.

"There's no doubt that there's a strong link between these two incidents," said Jalal Eddin al-Sagheer, an official with the leading Shiite political party, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution.

"These operations aim at driving the Shiites away from the political process and toward acts of revenge to undermine the national unity," he added. "The whole issue has to do with elections.

Hospital officials said 47 people were killed and at least 90 others wounded in the blast, which went off about 400 yards from the Imam Ali Shrine, the holiest Shiite site in Iraq

The car bomb detonated in Na-



An image of the aftermath following a suicide car bomber detonated his vehicle outside Karbala's main bus station on Sunday. The blast killed at least 13 people, according to hospital officials. An hour later, a car bomb shattered a central square in Najaf, crowded with residents watching a funeral procession, killing at least 47 people. More than 120 others were wounded in both attacks.

central Maidan Square where a large crowd of people had gathered for the funeral procession of a tribal sheik — about yards from where Gov. Adnan al-Zurufi and police chief

Ghalib al-Jazaari were standing. Al-Jazaari believed he and al-Zurufi were the targets of the attack, in which he said three blasts were heard at about 2:45 p.m. Both men were unhurt.

It was not immediately clear what the other explosions were

Residents were pulling bodies of the dead from damaged shops at the square, which is about 400 vards from the Imam Ali Shrine. the holiest Shiite site in Iraq.

The Karbala blast destroyed about 10 passenger minibuses and set ablaze five cars outside the crowded Bab Baghdad bus

Firefighters tried to put out the fires as ambulances ferried burned and bleeding casualties to the nearby al-Hussein hospital.

Hospital official Ali al-Ardawi said 13 people were killed and 33 injured

It was Karbala's second bombing in a week. On Wednesday, a bomb exploded at the city's gold-domed Imam Hussein Shrine, killing eight people and wounding 40 in an apparent attempt to kill a top aide to Iraq's powerful Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

The shrine, located near the bus station, was hit on March 2 by suicide bombing that killed 85 people and wounded 100. The holy sites in Najaf and Karbala. south of Baghdad, house the tombs of Shia Islam's most re-

vered saints.

The violence was the latest in an insurgent campaign to disrupt the crucial elections, the first national polls since Saddam Hus-sein's fall - and the latest to target Shiite Muslims, Iraq's majority community that will most likely to dominate the vote.

In Baghdad, about 30 armed insurgents, hurling hand grenades and firing guns, ambushed a car carrying five election officials executing three - during the morning rush-hour on central Haifa Street, the scene of repeated clashes between U.S. forces and insurgents

Three officials of the nongovernmental Independent Electoral Iraq Commission dragged from their car, which was later set alight. Two escaped unharmed

Pistol-wielding gunmen -

their faces uncovered - forced the officials to kneel in the middle of Haifa Street, while the traffic behind them on the thoroughfare braked to a halt and panicked drivers tried to reverse away from the ambush site. One of the officials was punched by the gunmen as he lay on the ground, before the militants shot all three at point-blank range.

The commission condemned the attack as a "terrorist am-

"The IECI urges the Iraqi people and all its political, religious, religious and social leaders, and the authorities to condemn this inhumane crime, which has brought shame on our people and country," the commission said.

A police official said the ferocity of the clashes prevented police from nearing the area. The attackers, most of whom were seen brazenly roaming Haifa Street without anything covering their faces. later set fire to at least one other vehicle before melting away as U.S. and Iraqi National Guard forces cordoned off the area

Sunni elder statesman Adnan Pachachi, who heads a field of 70 candidates into the Jan. 30 elections, said the Haifa Street violence proved there should be a 'short postponement" of the national polls to address the concerns of senior Sunni clerics demanding a boycott.

Among the militants fanning the insurgency are many Islamic extremists, believed to be mainly Sunnis, who have lost prestige and privilege since their former sponsor fellow Suppi Saddam Hussein, was toppled.

Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a pro-American secular Shiite, said an increase in attacks ahead of the elections had been anticipated.

"For sure we expect strikes and we hope the eyes of our people will be open to inform authorities and help them in doing their job," told al-Iraqiya TV.

Associated Press Writers Mariam Fam and Sameer N. Yacoub in Baghdad and Gassid Jabbar in Karbala contributed to this report.

Kidnapping claim

BAGHDAD - Insurgents claiming to represent three Iraqi militant groups released a video-tape Saturday saying they had captured 10 Iraqis working for an American security and reconstruction company and would kill them if their firm did not leave

this turbulent country.

Mujahedeen Army, The Black Banner Brigade and the Mutassim Rellah Brigade also threatened more attacks on Iraqi operations of the company, Washing-D.C.-headquartered Sandi Group, and anyone who cooperat-

Mutassim Bellah was an an-The groups, claiming to be the cient Iraqi military commander.

"We warn the director of (Sandi Group) ... to close the company completely and all its branches and to leave Iraq, otherwise those (hostages) who are in our grasp will be killed," a masked militant wearing a traditional black Arab robe said in comments recorded on the tape obtained by the AP.

The tape, which could not be immediately verified, showed at least four insurgents with their faces covered by traditional Arab head scarves and posing with machine guns.

Chad Knauss, an American and deputy chief operations officer of Sandi Group in Iraq, declined to comment on claims that his company's employees had been kid-

From The Associated Press

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,304 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,021 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

tary civilians. The AP count is four higher

than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 11:30 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has re-ported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Po-land, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Den-mark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each

dent Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,166 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count That includes at least 912 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since May 1 2003 when Presi-

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported. The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Franklin Sweger, 24, San Antonio; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battal-ion. 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force Corps Base, Hawaii Force, Marine

Earn Your Degree at Home! Use your Military/VA Education Benefits. www.cie-wc.edu

Cleveland Institute of Flectronics offers nationally accredited distance learning programs in electronics and compute technology! VA & DANTES eligible

Partial list programs offered: Associate Degrees in Electronics & Computer Technology

Send for your FREE Course Catalog

& see how easy it is to put your Military Eduction Benefits to work for you & see if you qualify for advanced standing. www.ciebookstore.com

CD tutorials, software, tool kits & more CIE:1776 E.17th Street, Cleveland, OH 44114

Iraqis the gate



Guard searches an Iraqi worker entering Logistics Support Area Anaconda. Iraq, on Thursday. About 1,000 Iraqis work on the base The job of checking them falls to the 181st Support Battalion and members of the Iraqi National Guard.

A member of the Iraqi National

44 If we have any question about an Iraqi person, we send them home.

We don't take any chances. 77

Sgt. Douglas Peterson

Soldiers keep wary eye on workers passing through Anaconda's checkpoint

BY RON JENSEN Stars & Stripes

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — Every day hundreds of Iraqis flow through the gates at Logistics Support Area Anaconda.

They are either people with jobs on base or people who want work, if even for a few hours. Still more come with big trucks to deliver goods to America's largest supply hub in Iraq.

No matter how familiar the faces or how harmless they may look, soldiers of the 181st Support Battalion, part of the 81st Brigade Combat Team, consider each a possible threat.

"If we have any question about an Iraqi person, we send them home," said Sgt. Douglas Peterson. "We don't take any chances

Each day, usually between 8 and 10 a.m., about 1,000 Iraqis walk through the base's north gate. They are searched and their identification scrutinized numerous times

Peterson, a carpenter back in Washington state, watches every day as people file past him to be searched by Iraqi National Guard soldiers. His eyes peeled for bulky coats that might hide explosives, he said, or a person who wants to be searched only by a particular individual

Iraqis often carry guns, he said, and sometimes one will forget to leave it at the check-in point for weapons.

"We don't take that lightly here." he said. "We lock and load

Alcohol, electronic gear and knives are a few of the contraband not allowed on the base The Iraqi soldiers pat down their countrymen from head to toe, checking their coat pockets



Sgt. Justin Jones of Company D, 181st Support Battalion, 81st Brigade Combat Team checks an Iraqi worker.

and even looking inside packs of

"Everyone's checked" said 1st Lt. Annmarie Stormo, so it may take around 45 minutes for an Iraqi to maneuver through the maze of checkpoints and holding areas.

cess is repeated. Everyone leaving the base is searched. Capt. Stan Seo said the soldiers look for computers, docu-

ments and even soldiers' mail. After the morning's initial check, the base visitors are segregated. The permanent work ers with red badges go to one

line where they are checked again before entering. Those hoping for work are put in an area where they wait for a iob that may or may not appear.



A sign at the north gate of Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq, tells anyone entering which items they can't bring onto the base.

If units on base need a building painted or a fence repaired, they can come and choose from the

waiting crowd "Every day I come here, but no work," one man in the holding area said in English, "My father, sick."

Staff Sgt. Larry Larson, who is a health technician for the military in Spokane, Wash., said he feels sorry for the Iraqis who come looking for work. Some, he said have worked for units that have left Irag, so he's tried to hook them up with the replace-

"I feel for them," he said. "I wish there was more I could for them.'

The individuals have not caused many problems for the soldiers of the 81st BCT, which is a National Guard unit from Washington state.

Vehicle traffic on the other hand, has sometimes stiffened the soldiers' backs when a bomb is found on a truck.

"We've had quite a few, enough to keep everyone on their toes," said Seo.

Stormo said bombs are usually placed on the trucks without the driver's knowledge. Recently, a truck rolled toward the gate with a bomb on its gas tank, but it was discovered before it got

"I call it probing," said Stormo. 'They're trying to see how far they can get before we detect it." Truckers sometimes find the bombs and tell the soldiers. Bomb-sniffing dogs are also used to check vehicle traffic.

Bombs aren't the only thing on the checklist. Sgt. David Medzyk said he is looking for anything on the contraband list, which he finds "pretty often." At the gates the soldiers know

there is never a time they can let their guard down.

"We're the last check. If we miss it, it's on the post some-where," Medzyk said. "And we haven't missed vet."

E-mail Ron Jensen at:



Pentagon Car Sales

... GERMANY

KAISERSLAUTERN

Kaiserstrasse 1 67661 Kaiserslautern Tel: 0631 351 900

HEIDELBERG

Hebelstrasse 3 69115 Heidelberg Tel: 06221 144 911

MANNHEIM

Waldeckweg 3 68309 Mannheim Tel: 0621 724 6901

WIESBADEN / MAINZ Ludwig-Wolker-Str. 14

55252 Mainz-Kaste Tel: 06134 567 800

...ITALY

AVIANO

Via Pordenone 48D Aviano (PN) 33081 Tel: 0434 676 613/4

VICENZA

Viale Della Pace 254B Vicenza (VI) 36100 Tel: 0444 305 888

NAPLES

Via Eduardo Scarfoglio, 7/f 80125 Naples Tel: 081 762 3868

SIGONELLA

c/o Hotel Sigonella Inn Suite 101/102 opposite NAS 1 95040 Motta S. Anastasia (CT) Tel: 095 713 0410

LA MADDALENA

Piazza Bambin Gesu' 11 07024 La Maddalena (SS). Tel: 0789 723 026

...SPAIN

ROTA

Plaza Del Triunfo 6 11520 Rota (Cadiz) Tel: 956 841 678





Above: "Ice Man" was taken in April 2003 outside of Mut, in southeast Iraq. This man was a manager of a ice factory and actually lived in his store after the invasion began. Right: "Gathreed in Holy Cloth" was taken in May 2003 near Badrah, 75 miles east of Baghdad. The bones were exhumed from a mass grave.





Marine's war photos go on display at Md. school

BY LEO SHANE II Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Even though thousands of pictures have been taken during the U.S. occupation in Iraq, Maj. Benjamin Busch doesn't think many Americans have really seen the country.

The Marine took hundreds of photos of his own during his 13-month tour following the invasion of Iraq, and will be displaying 100 of them at University of Maryland University College in College Park, Md., next month. He thinks they show an unfiltered look at everyday Iraqis, and their reaction to the ware.

"This exhibit does not insist that the war was a mistake or that it was necessary, those positions have lost their relevance," he said. "It simply states that it is a war and that we have a duty to understand our situation now that that distant country is a part of our lives."

Busch, 36, an actor who has performed in a number of television shows including "The West Wing" and "The Wire," has been an amateur photographer since graduating from college. He also served as the commanding officer of Delta Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion,

which arrived in eastern Iraq in April 2003.

The pictures in the exhibit were all taken in the following six months, as his unit moved along the Iranian border.

"It was very difficult to take this series of photographs during my first deployment," he said. "I was the provisional military authority for a large piece of territory ... I could not allow myself or my Marines to be

considered vulnerable tourists.
"There are thousands of images that I had to walk or drive past simply because the moment had not been appropriate to

What he did record is a series of faces and emotions of Iraqi citizens watching their country undergo dramatic changes. A number of his photos were put on display at Vassar College in New York earlier this year, and Busch was impressed with how well the audience could separate controversy surrounding the war from the pictures themselves.

"Intelligent viewers appreciated the messages in the exhibit for what they were," he said. "[The photos] were taken by a Marine with an unlikely combination of both a military and an artistic perspective in a combat

Busch is scheduled to return to Iraq next month, shortly after his exhibit, "The Art of War," opens. He said he isn't sure what to expect on the return trip.

"When I took most of the photographs in this show, I was able to make and, to a certain extent, control the first impression that the Iraqi people had of American occupation," he said. "This time I will be operating in an area corrupted by our armed response to an increasingly popular insurgen-

"But I will bring my camera. I don't go there to take pictures, I take pictures because I am there."

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

Message for our men and women in uniform...

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

From coast to coast, thousands of Americans are grateful for what you do and want to show you that they care. To see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America, visit www.stripes.com.

This is just a small token of appreciation, a way to say...





Please visit the site at

www.stripes.com and click on the America Supports You button to view the messages of support and to submit your own thank you notes as well!





Tyla Simcox

Hannah Simmons

Branden Simmons

Joshua Simmons

Tyler Simmons

Connor Simpson

Joseph Simpson

Miranda Smith

Da'Von Solomon

Dylan Sopko

Cheri Spencer

Dylan Stephens

Hannah Stephens

Lucinda Steven

Emilia Steven

Virginia Stoll

Matthew Stone

Ashley Stone

Kaitlin Stone

Jake Tatum

Maria Taylor

Xávier Thomas

Daniel Tolarchyk

Eric Toy

Lucas Tucker

James Tyler

Liz Vasquez

Ally Walker

Shane Wallace

Eve Walter

Anna Walter

Catrina Wardman

Joshua Weaver

Shelbi Weiner

Clare Werner

News from the North Pole

SANTA INDICATES THAT THE FOLLOWING BOYS AND GIRLS HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD THIS YEAR AND WILL SOON BE RECEIVING A PERSONALIZED NOTE FROM SANTA!

Due to an overwhelming response, I have asked Stars and Stripes to print additional pages to list the names of all the children who wrote to me this year. Please check "News from the North Pole" in your Stars and Stripes on 20, 21, and 22 December. I'll see you very soon! ...Santa

Pat Jr. Lamb



Cody Allen Andres Almanza lan Almanza Dalvin Anderson Jackson Anton Olivia Anton Isabella Arquello Eddie Bailey Lyn Barber Ben Barber Tim Barber Larry Baricuatro Sonja Baricuatro Jessica Barker Olen Bass Scarlet Bass Michael Battle Shauna Beecroft Emily Beecroft Lucas Bell Sydney Bell Abby Bennett Drew Bennett Lindsey Berry Elaine Blum Damon Blum Xavier Bonney William Bradley Evie Bradley I ara Bradley Bobie Breitwieser Jacob Briney Nick Britt Megan Brophy Travaris Brown Trisha Brown Manuel Brown Christian Brown Carson Brown Alex Bub Zech Burgess Connor Burton Antonia Caffrey Jordan Carter Ashlee Castillo Luis Castillo Angeles Castillo Victoria Cavagna Austin Clough Alexander Combs Penelope Combs Haley Cook Winsome Cooke Romero Coote Darby Copeland Aiden Covarrubias Andrea Covarrubias Adrian Crabtree Matthew Cross Cameryn Dalton Jael Dalton Joseph Dalton, Jr Will Dane Skylar Davidson Jeremy Diamond Shanea Dietel Ethan Dillon Drew Dillon Armando Dominguez

Sarah Dominguez

Sarah Duncan

Lily Duncan

Katie Duncan

Isabella Duncan Tayler Duran Josee Dussault Sara Dygert Catrina Dygert Rachel Ellison Chelsey Emery Christopher Erickson Kristin Frickson Riley Erickson Jared Esmond Allison Farrar Kaitlyn Farrar Minnie Fawcett Kiera Fields Kirsten Flanigan Kandac Fordham Evie Forster Harry Forster Ashlee Fowler Seth Fowler Cori Fulford Sina Fuxius Aizalyn Garcia Dayshaunarae Gass Colleen Gawkins Jacob Gomez Christopher Gomez Sierra Gooch Amanda Goodman Patrick Gough Logan Grimes Ryan Grissett Reed Gustafson Jared Habel Ashley Hallmark Daniel Harker Chloe Harris Aubrey Harris Nicholas Harris Lukas Heath Amelia Heath Whit Helton Brycyn Helton Taylor Hendricks Primavera Hernandez Brandon Hicks Rocio Hidago Julian Hil Chrysten Hill Zariá Holland Dominique Holland Kassidy Holland Tyler Jacobi Mike Jacobs Jami Jewett William Jewett Ann Johnson Aidan Johnson Tristan Johnson Kayla Johnwick Zachary Johnwick Morgan Jones Spencer Jones Finnian Keough Kyle Kissling Madeline Knoche Madeline Koning Kiersten Koning Lena Korz John Lally

Michael Lally

Noah Lamb Adrianna Lamb Kaitlyn Leckliter Rusty Leckliter Noah Lecklite Brandon Lock Joshua Long Lora Lorentser Parker Ludwick Mackenzie Ludwick Joshua Lukins Sarah Lukins Rebekah Lukins Justin Magram Ambar Malave Miguel Maldonado Emily Manzo Kinsey Martin Kailey Martin Makenna Martin Gabriel Mastran Chrystena Thomas Alex Mcbryar Teighlor McCall Amber McCroskey Wyatt McDonald Alex McEarlane Erin McGuire Kelsey McMahan Kassey McMahan Eric Merritt Antonio Metove Dwavne Metover Caroline Mille Meghan Murphy Connor Murphy Sayrend Musgrove Morgan Neal-Zeller Hayley Nerf Christina M Newman Daniela N. Newman Patrick J. Newman III Caleb Nomai Brian Nunez Heidi O'Dell Jamal Orange Wynnona Ornelas Brenden Ornelas Joey Ornelas, Jr. Alexandra Oxendine Tori Paradee Cassey Paradee Ashleigh Patridge Fischer Peltz Jasmine Pettiway Sean Proctor Nia Ramirez Chance Ratliff

Seth Werner Cassie Werner Ian White James Wicks Michael Wicks, Jr. Quincy Wiggs Kelsey Willis Eric Wills Miya Winston Autumn Wood Josh Woods Robert Wyrick Brittany Yost Mckenzie Zangl Michael Zand Paul Zielinski Marina Zielinski Anna Zielinski Brian Zipplies Brandon Kaylynn Isabella Bryce Alexander Reedy D'Andre Ashley Reedy Vanessa Kelsev Reedy Semai Madison Remillard Isaac Morgan Remillard Denise Drake Richardson Atlanta Angela Richardson Alicia Helen Roach Katelynn Darren Robinson Tyré¹ Craig Robinson Vanessa Ashley Root Mykala Rowley Camoran Kristina Adrian Sarmiento Brendan Channing Shepherd Denise Desire Shradnick Ron

Tasia Misa Kai Mikayla Jacob Taylo Kiki Andrew Natalie Zoje Ariana Lizzy Judy Mallory Courtney Keith Jalen Isian Michael Robert Kaleb Sophie Diego Penny Alconbury Elementary School Ms. Emery and Ms Cyndy's Sure Start Class Quintan Bonner Ira Bornstein Tytianna Cutchin Jessica DeLoza Jaide Draper Conley Gentry Blake George Kaeli Goodwin Omari Green Ajeya Hughes Ethan Journey Claire May Nathan Moore Daniel Price Claudine Vasquez Kinley Wells Ms. Mueller's ESL class Tatiana Morales Shaila Alba Ali Spangdahlem Elementary Ms. Pittmann's 1st grade Allyson Andrew Brogan Flijah Fric Ethan Janina

Jared

Jenna

Justin

Kayla

Meagan

Michael

Nathaniel

Sierra

Tayler

Rota, Spain

Mrs. Thompson's 1st grade Cody Conno Emily Emmanuel Fiona Ilise . laieha Jonathan Justin Kyle Luis Margaret Nathan Richard Shelton Aukamm mentary School Mrs. Hovanic's Kindergarten Anastasia Ashley Azaviar Dan Ema Franklin Gaby Gavin Isaiah Kalani Kavla Makayla Maxi Michael Noah Solo Suzi C Co. 1-63 AR <u>children</u> Vilseck, Germany Delize-Danielle Byers Breanna Byers Angel-Rose Byers Melissa Camara Antonia Camara Jeanneatta Cortez Ashley Cortez Jesse Cortez Mackenzie Graham Christion Jenkins Yasmin Jenkins Ta'Tayana Graham Jammie Graham Jazzmin Graham Kariem Johnson Alexus Johnson Pria Johnson Amari Johnson Amara Jump Devin Jump Cassi LaVel Drew LaVelle Aryal LaVelle Kray Lewis Lakeysha Lewis Victoria Luian Gavin Lujan Eric Merritt

Corteir Rogers

Deanthony Baker Mrs. Howell's class Shavla Holland Aaron Merritt Ethan Oakes

Erin Rogers Hohenfels Elementary School Kindergarten class A.J. Adam Aidan Alevie Alyssia Anthony Christina Courtney Darwin Emma C Emma G Jake Jeremy .lessica Justin Kaitlin Kayla Kelsev Madison Marie Noah Patrick

Savion Brown Achley Castellanoz Angela Castillo Abbigail Dolby Courtney Franz Jacob Garcia Kate Graham Henri Harilal Faith LeeRivears Samantha Luian Kaitie Majorwitz Edgar Roman Kassidy Sherlock-Majorwitz Aleyna Talley Sarah Theurer Bamberg

Butzbach

Elementary

Jalen Beid Isabella Carter Chris Collins Katie Fastman Daniel Walters Rvan Buettner Emmanul Daigle Tyler Belcher Janette Jackson Jenna Haddix Bence Mucsi Nidar Smith Caitlin Barry

Elementary

Records: Guardsman killed Iraqi after sex

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — A National Guardsman who pleaded guilty to killing a 17-year-old Iraqi soldier said he shot the young man after they had consensual sex in a guard tower, a newspaper reported Saturday, citing court-martial

Pvt. Federico Daniel Merida.

21, pleaded guilty to murder without premeditation and other charges during a court-martial in Iraq in September.

Merida was sentenced Sept. 25 to 25 years in prison and reduced in rank and will be dishonorably discharged. He is being held at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., a Leav-

enworth spokeswoman said. th Merida, who was born in Ver-

acruz, Mexico, has a wife and tod

Army officials at Forward Operating Base Danger, where the court-martial was held in Iraq, had previously withheld details of the case.

However, The News & Observer of Raleigh reported Saturday that records show Merida and the Iraqi were on guard duty May 11

in a tower on the perimeter of an Army camp near Tikrit in northern Iraq. At about 10:30 p.m., Mer-

ida shot the teen 11 times with his carbine.

Merida first told investigators the teen demanded money at gunpoint. Later, he said he killed the boy because he forced him to have sex. In a third interview.

Merida said he got angry after the

two had consensual sex.

Merida also pleaded guilty to two counts of giving false statements

ments.

Merida apologized to the victim's family during the court-martial, records show. "He was a son,
a brother, someone very important to them," he said. "I took
someone they loved and cared

Fla. father apologizes for torching van in grief

The Associated Pres

HIALEAH, Fla. — A man has apologized for setting fire to the van driven by a team of Marines who had come to his house to tell him his son was killed in Iraq.

"Thank God they opened their hearts to see me," Carlos Arredondo said after a private meeting with the Marines on Saturday at a Marine base in Hialeah, a Miami suburb.

Arredondo was celebrating his 44th birthday at his home in Hollywood on Aug. 25 and had his phone in his pocket, expecting a call from his son, Marine Lance Cpl. Alexander Arredondo.

But then three Marines, members of a military Casualty Assistance Calls team, arrived and told him his 20-year-old son had been killed in combat in Najaf, Iraq, during his second tour of duty in Iraq.

"I got very upset. I felt like it was a bad joke or bad dream," Arrendondo said. "I was crying. ... I was calling for Alex."

Arredondo grabbed a propane torch and a gasoline can from his garage, yelled at the Marines to leave, smashed a window of their van with a hammer, poured gasoline in the vehicle and climbed inside.

As his mother tried to pull him out, he said, he accidentally turned on the torch.

The Marines put out the flames on his body. Jackson Memorial Hospital has given him an extended payment plan to pay his \$43,000 bill for burns that covered 26 percent of his body.

On Saturday, Arredondo and his wife, Melida, met with Marine Maj. Scott Mack and the three Maj. Scott Mack and the three Maj. scots when to his house. They discussed two scholarships in his son's name — one created by the Marines and the other by Blue Hills Regional Technical School in Canton, Mass., where the younger Arredondo graduated.

After the hourlong meeting, everyone stepped outside, and Arredondo saluted and embraced the Marines.

"Whatever happened out there wasn't about them," he said afterward. "I wanted them to understand I am years years overs"

stand I am very, very sorry."

After the fire, Mack had said the Marines would not press charges "out of compassion and sensitivity" to Arredondo.



GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING SPECIAL OFFER! Subscribe to Stars and Stripes before December 31, 2004

PECIAL OFFER! Subscribe to Stars and Stripes before December 31, 2004 and receive an EXTRA! EXTRA! large Stars and Stripes gift mug!

Don't miss daily developments on issues that affect you the most – Deployments, Local Happenings, Military Transformation, DoDDs Schools and so much more.

Special introductory rates offer substantial savings on the cover price!

Three months: \$45.50 (Save 12.5%) Six months: \$84.50 (Save 18.75%) Twelve months: \$156 (Save 25%)

Contact your Stars and Stripes customer service representative today: tel: 06155 601 438 or DSN 349-8438. Email: customerservice@mail.estripes.osd.mil Mention promo code: FREEMUG to receive your Stars and Stripes gift mug.



*Gift mug offer valid only while supplies last. Special introductory rates available to new Home Delivery subscribers only. Home delivery not available in some areas; contact your STARS AND STRIPES CUSTOMER Service representative for more details.

IN THE WORLD

EU talks have significant meaning for Turkey

Cyprus issue could block membership

BY JAMES C. HELICKE The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey - The European Union's decision to extend membership talks with Turkey contributes to the Muslim country's stability and gives it a new position in Europe and the Is-lamic world. Foreign Minster Ab-

dullah Gul said Sunday. The bloc on Friday agreed to start the membership talks with Turkey in October, but imposed tough conditions on Turkish membership, such as taking steps to ward recognizing Cyprus before the talks open in October.

"Turkey is a very different country than two days ago," Gul said in Ankara. "We sense this inside Turkey. You see this when we're together with all our neighbors. You see this in Europe. In all the Muslim countries, in Arab countries, in the Caucasus, Turkey's position has changed.

The EII made its decision despite widespread public misgivings in Europe about welcoming a poor and crowded Muslim nation into the bloc.

"The important issue is that Turkey's direction has become definite. Turkey has entered a period of permanent stability," Gul

Turkey still faces a number of challenges before it can become a full EU member, which EU offi-

cials say isn't guaranteed and is unlikely for at least a decade. Turkey must, for example, broaden rights for ethnic and religious minorities and limit the military's influence in politics.

Refore it can start the talks Turkey also has to expand its customs union with the EU to include Cyprus, a move that EU officials say amounts to de facto recognition of its government.

Turkey has occupied the northern part of the divided island since 1974 and refuses to recognize the internationally recognized government in the south.

On Sunday, Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos indicated that Cyprus could still block Turkey's EU path if Turkey refuses to sign the customs union agreement by October.



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, left, and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul greet supporters Saturday in Ankara, Turkey.

Yukos' core unit sold to

unknown Russian firm

By ALEX NICHOLSON The Associated Pres.

MOSCOW - A previously un known Russian company called BaikalFinansGroup bought the core production unit of oil giant Yukos at auction for \$9.3 billion on Sunday, gaining control of one of Russia's most prized oil assets for a fraction of what Yukos executives say it is worth.

The sale of the Yuganskneftegaz unit reduces Yukos to a shadow of its former self, one of the heaviest blows to a company which has been the target of a longtime government campaign. The government says it's trying to collect \$28 billion in back taxes — while Yukos officials say the Kremlin is punishing it for the

politics of its now-jailed founder. Yukos currently pumps nearly one-fifth of all of Russia's oil and supplies two percent of the world's consumption. The auctioned unit produced 60 percent of Yukos' output.

Foreign auditors have said the West Siberian unit was worth about \$18 billion, or nearly twice the \$9.3 billion it sold for.

Yukos executives said the unit was worth up to \$30 billion.

Virtually nothing is known about the winner, BaikalFinans-Group, which emerged as a bidder at the last minute - after a U.S. court issued an injuction against the auction, disrupting plans for a bid from the company that had been seen as the Kremlin's favorite to snap up the unit: the state-controlled natural gas behemoth, Gazprom.

Observers, however, BaikalFinansGroup could be just an alternative vehicle for Gazprom, with sources of funding that are different from those ini tially prepared.

Stephen Dashevsky, a leading analyst for Russia's Aton broker age, said the winner was likely affiliated to Gazprom.

ITAR-Tass ITAR-Tass news agency claimed that BaikalFinans-Group's registration address — in the central city of Tver - corresponded to that of one of Gazprom's structures

Gazprom said Sunday that neither it nor Gazpromneft — its oil component, which was officially making the firm's bid - had any relation to the winner the Interfax news agency reported.

Pinochet in hospital after stroke

The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile - Former dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet has been hospitalized after suffering a stroke. It comes as an appeals court is determining whether to uphold his indictment and house arrest on human rights charges.

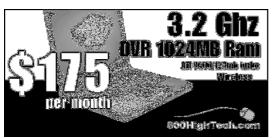
Pinochet was rushed to Santiago's Army Hospital on Saturday morning after "he felt bad during breakfast - as if he would faint said his spokesman, retired Gen. Guillermo Garin.

Hospital officials, in a statement, said he suffered a stroke along with "impaired mobility and a neurological deficit."

Officials were not available for additional comment, but the statement said he is in stable condition and was expected to at least make a partial recovery

Pinochet suffers from mild dementia, diabetes, arthritis and has a pacemaker. He has suffered several minor strokes in recent years and has been repeatedly hospitalized.

His hospitalization Saturday came a day after the Santiago Court of Appeals delayed until next week a decision on whether to uphold his indictment and house arrest for the alleged kidnapping of nine dissidents and the killing of one of them during his 1973-90 military regime.



University of Maryland University College Europe



Check out UMUC-Europe's Term 3 schedule of classes:

www ed umuc edu

Find your undergraduate, graduate, or distance education class schedule using the online searchable schedule link.



Contact us at DSN 370-6762, CIV +49-(0)6221-3780, e-mail edstudent_svc@ed.umuc.edu, or visit your UMUC-Europe field representative.

Al-Qaida shifting strategy in Saudi Arabia

BY CRAIG WHITLOCK The Washington Post

RIYADH. Saudi Arabia Al-Qaida forces in Saudi Arabia have shifted their strategy and now almost exclusively searching for U.S. and other Western targets in the kingdom while avoiding attacks on domestic institutions in a bid to strengthen their flagging network, according to security officials and Saudi experts on radical groups.

While al-Oaida retains its primary goal of eventually toppling the Saudi royal family Osama bin Laden made clear in audio recording released Thursday - an 18-month campaign of car bombings, gunbattles and kidnappings has failed to generate many new recruits and has resulted in a backlash among many Saudis, even those who otherwise are critical of the government, the officials and experts

More than 80 people have died

Terrorist network solely focusing on U.S., Western targets in bid to bolster organization, officials say

in the attacks, the majority of them Saudis or nonwestern immigrant workers. Many people in the kingdom are not only angry over the bloodshed but also fearful of al-Oaida's attempt to turn Saudi Arabia, a deeply conservative tribal society, into an even more conservative Islamic theocracy, several Saudi reformers said in interviews

"People want government reforms and changes, but they are more scared of al-Qaida extrem-" said Mansour Nogaidan, a former Islamic radical who has moderated his views but remains one of the most prominent critics of the Saudi government. "The common people - those people who thought their life might improve if the government changed - they are not ready to lose all this for what some young al-Qaida cells and the insurgents teen-agers have in their minds as a utopia."

Desnite this month's al-Qaida-sponsored attack on the U.S. consulate in Jiddah that left nine people dead, including the four assailants, Saudi government officials expressed confidence that they are steadily gaining the upper hand in their fight with the militants.

Security forces have arrested or killed 17 of the 26 most wanted militant leaders in the country. Two others on the most wanted list are believed to be dead or badly injured, while a key operational planner reportedly fled the kingdom, Saudi security officials

Saudi officials said they've dismantled three of four known the attacks will end any time

"The hands-on folks see this as a serious engagement that has some time to run," said a Western official involved in counterterrorism efforts in the kingdom, who spoke on condition of anonymity. They don't see this as ending near term. It's going to take a period of time Is it months? Is it years? We don't know.

For the moment, al-Qaida is seeking to recover from the loss of leaders who have been arrested or killed. Abdulaziz Mugrin, a former cell leader who asserted responsibility in the deaths of three U.S. military contractors last summer, including the beheading of Lockheed Martin employee Paul Johnson Jr., died in a June shootout with Saudi police. Murqin's replacement, Saleh Awfi, is believed to be dead or seriously injured. Saudi officials

Yushchenko continues campaign



Ukrainian presidential candidate and opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko holds traditional Ukrainian bread as he walks with daughter Khrystyna during the St. Nicholas Day celebration on the main square of Ukrainian capital Kiev. Over the weekend, Yushchenko and Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, the country's rival presidential candidates, made overlapping campaign trips to the eastern industrial city of Kharkiv on Friday, sparking fears of more tension ahead of the Dec. 26 rerun election.

Security issues raised in France after gruesome hospital killings

are finding it harder to obtain am-

munition, weaponry and money.

The attacks' size and scope have

also dwindled since last year,

when car bombs in Rivadh blew

up two Western residential com-

nounds and caused more than 200

"The people who are still there

are not as skillful as the ones who

were there in the beginning," said

Brig. Gen. Mansour Turki, spokes-

man for the Saudi Interior Minis-

we did in the beginning of this

fight. We thought it would take

much longer to be in control. We

cannot deny that there are still

possibilities that the terrorists

could execute more acts, but they

are not as strong as they were a

vear ago.

"We feel more confident than

PARIS - France's health minister called an urgent meeting Sunday to address security at hosnitals after the gruesome killings of two psychiatric hospital workers that have shaken the country.

Philippe Douste-Blazy was to meet with health workers and Interior Ministry officials after the discovery Saturday of the bodies of a nurse and a nurse's aide one beheaded, the other with the throat slit - at a hospital in the southwestern town of Pau. Five people, including a recent

patient whom state prosecutors believe to be the key suspect, remained in police custody Sunday for questioning, police said

The bodies were found around daybreak Saturday in a building in the geriatric ward of the hospital, where a shattered window pointed to a possible break-in, state prosecutor Eric Maurel

Officials said one woman's head was found on top of a TV set at the hospital.

A man who sounded drunk telephoned police overnight with "information about a violent scenario." Maurel said Saturday. The man and three others also at his home were among those taken into custody. Union leaders faulted a staff

and funding shortage funding, saying security has been a prob-lem for months, dozens of jobs

were set to be cut, and violence took place regularly at the hospi-

"It is horror, terror, fear, disgust — fear of returning to work, Cathy Sanders, a regional official from Worker's Front union, told RTL radio. "Last night, the staff was doubled" as a precaution, Sanders said.

meeting called Douste-Blazy was to focus on ways to combat violence and boost security at hospitals, a state-ment from the Health Ministry

The minister announced last week that he planned to present by March a mental health reform package for the country, which he said lags behind others in psychiatric treatment.

Joke text message triggers alert CANBERRA, Australia - An Italian tourist on a

flight from Sydney to Vienna caused a security alert when he sent a cell phone message to his wife claiming his plane had been hijacked by terrorists, the Australian government said Sunday Authorities quickly discovered the message was a

Antonio Casale, 35, sent the text message when

the Lauda Air flight stopped in Kuala Lumpur to refuel, a newspaper in Sydney reported Sunday. A Transport Ministry spokesman confirmed the

report in the Sunday Telegraph. Casale claimed terrorists were in control of the plane and were taking the passengers to an unknown destination

His distressed wife contacted Italian police, who immediately contacted the Italian Embassy in Canberra, who in turn contacted Australian police.

Fire breaks out on Italian ferry

ROME - A small fire broke out on a ferry carrying hundreds of people from Sicily to the Italian mainland, and the boat was towed back to port on Sunday to be evacuated, a port authority official

No one was seriously injured on board the ferry Florio, although many passengers fell ill from the smoke, a Palermo port official said. Some passengers required hospital treatment, Sky TG24 television reported.

All 472 people on board were safely evacuated when the boat reached Palermo, Sicily, the official said. Some disoriented, ailing passengers had to be carried off the hoat or hurst into tears when they reached land. Passengers spent the night in a panic. with the ferry tossing on rough seas, smoke filling the air and no electricity on board.

Turkmenistan parliament elections

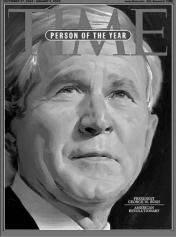
ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan - Polling stations were nearly empty early on election day Sunday in the capital of Turkmenistan, a tightly controlled former Soviet republic. Election officials said they may carry ballot boxes door-to-door to seek votes

At least 50 percent of the country's 3 million eligible voters must take part for the parliamentary elections to be valid.

The 131 candidates contesting 50 seats represent different public organizations such as trade unions and women's associations

From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES



TIME/AP

Time magazine chose President Rush as its 2004 Person of the Year.

His Time: Bush selected 2004 Person of the Year

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - After winning re-election and "reshaping the rules of politics to fit his 10-gal-lon-hat leadership style," Presi-dent George W. Bush for the secwas chosen as Time

magazine's Person of the Year. The magazine's editors tapped Bush "for sharpening the debate until the choices bled, for refram-ing reality to match his design, for gambling his fortunes - and ours - on his faith in the power of leadership."

Time's 2004 Person of the Year package, on newsstands Monday, includes an Oval Office interview with Bush, an interview with his father, former President George H. W. Bush, and a profile of Bush's chief political adviser, Karl Rove.

In an interview with the magazine Rush attributed his victory over Democratic candidate John Kerry to his foreign policy and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The election was about the use

of American influence," Bush said. After a grueling campaign,

in America and around the world, and that's part of the reason he earned the magazine's honor,

said Managing Editor Jim Kelly "Many, many Americans deep-ly wish he had not won," Kelly said in a telephone interview "And yet he did."

In the Time article, Bush said he relishes that some people dis-

"I think the natural instinct for most people in the political world is that they want people to like them," Bush said. "On the other hand, I think sometimes I take kind of a delight in who the critics

Bush joins six other presidents who have twice won the maga-zine's top honor: Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower (first as a general), Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton.

Kelly said other candidates in-

cluded Michael Moore and Mel Gibson, "because in different ways their movies tapped in to deep cultural streams," and political strategist Rove, who is widely credited with engineering Bush's win.

Poll: Judging Bushes

NEW YORK - President Bush won re-election, unlike his father, but lags behind the elder Bush in the public's view of several personal attributes, according to a Time poll.

The poll examined public views of President George W. Bush compared with their views of the first President George Bush on attributes:

■ Honest and trustworthy: The former president, by 37 percent to 19 percent. ■ Understands the issues:

The former president, by 43 percent to 25 percent.

Likable: The former presi-

dent, by 38 percent to 28 per-

■ Sticks to positions, even if unpopular: The current president, by 56 percent to 16 per-

The Time-SRBI poll of 1,009 adults was taken Dec. 13-14. It margin of sampling error of 3 percentage points. From The Associated Pres-

Republican Senators at odds over Rumsfeld's future

BY GENARO C. ARMAS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Acknowledging mistakes in Iraq by the Bush administration, leading Republicans expressed reluctance Sunday that the White

House replace De-Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld who has lost the confi dence of some GOP lawmakers over the conduct of the war.

The chairman of the Senate Armed Ser vices Committee said a change at the top of the Pentagon would

too disruptive,

given the elections scheduled in Iraq for Jan. 30. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., also said the administration was addressing the misstens that have occurred in the aftermath of the U.S.-led ouster of Iraqi President Suddam Hussein.

"We should not at this point in time entertain any idea of changing those responsibil-ities in the Pentagon," Warner told NBC's "Meet the Press



chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, added. "We really can't go through that ordeal' now of finding a suc-Rumsfeld "should be held accountable and he should stay in office,' said Lugar, R-Ind. But Sen. Chuck

Sen. Richard Lugar,

Hagel, a Vietnam veteran said he had "no confidence" in Rumsfeld." Hagel, R-Neb., did not say that Rumsfeld should step

"I find it astounding. ... Things are worse than they've ever been" in Iraq, Hagel told CBS' "Face the Nation." Hagel said the decision to replace Rumsfeld was Bush's.

More than 1,300 American troops have died since the war began in March 2003. On Sunday, car bombs rocked Iraq's two holiest Shiite cities, killing at least 60 people and wounding more than 120. In Baghdad the canital dozens of gunmen killed three Iraqi em



zation running next month's elections U.S. troops in Kuwait have complained to Rumsfeld about long deployments and a lack of armored vehicles and other equipment.

Rumsfeld, agreed to Bush's request earlier this



month to remain in the Cabinet during the president's second term, won a vote of confidence from the White House on Sunday. "Secretary Rums-

feld is doing a spectac-ular job," the presi-dent's chief of staff, Andrew Card. told

ABC's "This Week."

"The president has provided good direction for our military, and Secretary Rumsfeld is transforming our military to meet the threats of the 21st century," Card said.

While security remains a concern in Iraq, Card said the growing economy and

Lawmakers criticize secretary for machine-signed condolence letters

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Last week, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced he would personally sign condolence letters to the family members of U.S. troops killed in action rather than letting a machine affix his signature.

Republican and Democratic members of Congress criticized the embattled Pen-tagon chief on Sunday for not signing the letters himself all along

"My goodness, that's the least that we could expect of the secretary of defense, is having some personal attention paid by him," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., nothing that President Bush signs such "If the president of the United States

can find time to do that, why can't the Secretary of Defense?" Hagel, a Vietnam veteran, asked on CBS' "Face the Nation.

In a statement Friday, Rumsfeld announced the change in policy and said

"There are no guarantees, but we'll work

hard to provide security," for the elections, he said. "It'll be a wonderful success

Rumsfeld's performance has come

under criticism even from congressional

Republicans, including GOP Sens, Trent

Lott of Mississippi and John McCain of Ari-

Lott said last week that Rumsfeld did not

listen to uniformed officers and that Bush

tive developments.

more than 1,000 condolence letters had gone out to relatives of Americans killed in military action during the global fight against terrorism. While I have not individually signed

ach one, in the interest of ensuring expeditious contact with grieving family members, I have directed that in the future I sign each letter." Rumsfeld said in the

The statement, which was reported Friy by Stars and Stripes, did not specifically refer to troops killed in Iraq, though family members of soldiers who died there told Stripes they were angry with Rumsfeld's apparent stamped signature. More than 1,300 American troops have died since the war began in March 2003. Messages left with the Pentagon about

the criticism from lawmakers were not immediately returned Sunday.

The signature flap was the latest in a stinging string of criticism in recent weeks of the defense secretary's handling of the war in Iraq.

the establishment of the educational and should make a change at the Pentagon in electrical systems in the country were posi-

the next year or so. But Warner said Bush should stay the

course, especially with the Iraqi vote next month.

We are going to have a tough period after that election and we should press our confidence in the commander in chief and his principal subordinate," Warner said."And he will fight to get those budgets, and he will earn the confidence of the people in the Senate and the House so that he can continue to do that which is best for the country."

STARS STRIPES | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS BIERMANN, General Manager, Europe LT. COL. CYRIL I. SOCHA Commander

News and Editorial

News afto Editorial Director DOUG CLAWSON, Managing Editor ROBB GRINDSTAFF, Associate Editor RAM AMRREIN, Europe Bureau Chief SCOTT BURGESS, Middle East Bureau Chief JOE GROMELSKI, Electronic Edition Editor ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS:

Peter Photikoe Photo/Granhics Sharon Olson News

Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480, APO AE 09211 INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330, 64345 Griesheim.

FAX: DSN 349-8416; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601416

FAL LIST 369-3415, 0V. 149) (10) 153-0101415 FAMIL Vens: new6/g/mail extingues out at 500, Washington DC CENTRAL OFFICE: 520 14th Shreet RW. Saite 500, Washington DC 20045-1301. Phone DSN 3127-55-9000 or civ. (+1) (2007 761-9900. Fax (+1) (2007, 761-0890 ENTOPMAL DIRECTOR: David Mazzarella, 529 14th St. RW. Saite 350, Washington, DC 20065-1301. Phone DSN 3127-763-4945 or civ. (+1) (2027, 2761-0945).

azzarellad@stripes.osd.mil

OMBUDSMAN: Joe Ungaro. Send comments to: Ombudsman, S and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, 20045-1301. Phone civilian (+1) (401) 364-6032; (+1) (401) 364-8596;

or p.mail. ombudeman@strings and mil

How to call us Editor: DSN 349-8237: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601237 Letters: DSN 349-8400: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601400 Sports: DSN 349-8225: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601225 Circulation: DSN 349-8437; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601437

Advertising: DSN 349-8335/443; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601335/443

News Bureaus GERMANY (Country code +49)

Bamberg: Rick Emert, 279th BSB, Unit 27535, Bαx 23541, APO 09139-7535, tel. DSN 469-7957 or civ. (0) 951/36896; fax D 469-8007 or civ. (0) 951/30690-8007; e-mail: emertr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Baumholder: Terry Boyd, 222nd BSB, APO AE 09034; tel. DSN 485-6089, or civ. (0) 6783-900776; e-mail:

mail.estripes.osd.mil boydt@mail.estripes.osd.mil Darmstadt: Kevin Dougherty, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8406 or civ. (0) 6155-601406:

349-3406 or cir. (f) 6155-60106; -- mails dougherin/comal estispers.ord.mil. Ward Sanderson, Unit 2480, APO & 02211; tel. DSN 349-325 or cir. (v) 6155-60125; e. mula sander product estimates of telephone cir. (v) 615-601290; -- mail. Iringo(genal estispers.ord.mil 41640berg/Mannleim: Jon R. Anderson, Room 117, Romerstr. 104, 63113 Heidelberg; tel. DSN 370-7010 or civ. (v) 6221/600554; arc or. (v) 6227/2421; e. emila.

nderson/@mail.estripes.osd.mil.

Kaiserslautern/Spangdahlem: APO AE 09227-3717; tel. DSN 489-5885 or civ. (0) 631/52104 or (0) 631/57140; fax civ. (0)

Nriano/Vicenza: Kent Harris, Isl. IDSN (314) 632-7652 or civ. (39) 043-65-7652: second line DSN (314) 632-4222 or civ. (39) 043-65-7652; second line DSN (314) 632-4222 or civ. (39) 043-65-4022; e-mish harriskominal stripes code in the control of iontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil: chudvi@mail.estripes.osd.mi

SPAIN Rota: Scott Schonauer, PSC 819, Box 1, FPO AE 09645, tel. 727-1099 or civ. (+34) (956) 82-1099; fax DSN 727-103 civ. (+34) (956) 82-1034

RAF Mildenhall: Ron Jensen, Building 465 ECSS-UK, RAF Milde APO AE 09459; tel. DSN 238-4868 or civ. (+4 1638/544868; fax civ. (+44) (0) 1638/718013; 1638/544868; fax civ. (nail.estripes.osd.mil WASHINGTON D.C.

#WS-Influority Duck

Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; tal. (+1) (202) 761-0859;

e-mail: dicksonp@stripes.osd.mil

Lisa Burgess, tel div. (+1) (703) 692-1875; and Leo Shane, 529

a bulgess, let VV. (4-1) (V05/052-103), and let of sales, 14th Street WV, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; tel (+1) (202) 761-1183; fax civ. (+1) (202) 761-0890; e-n burgessl@stripes.osd.mil and shanel@stripes.osd.mil

Printed in Italy by Editrice Telestampa

Stars and Stripes (USPS 017252) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Peri-oficels postage paid at Washington, DC. Postmaster: Send address changes to European stars and Stripes, Unit 23480, APD AE 09211. ©E European and Pacific Stars and Stripes 2004

This reexposes is sufficiently for publication by the Department of De-tects for installing of the Milliam Systems exercises. However, the con-tention of the Milliam Systems exercises. However, the con-cent as the efficial select of the effect of the U.S. Comments, closely-ing the Department of Deletine or the U.S. Comments, closely-ing the Department of the Deletine or the U.S. Comments, closely-ing the Department of the Comments of the Comments of the content of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the original content of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the comments and one companied bands for the Comments of the Comments of the department of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Co

able for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affilia tion, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Barbaric killings not justified

It is how the letter writer justifies the killing of an enemy that scares the living heck out of many of us who proudly wear or wore the uniform of one of the services of the United States ("No tears shed for insurgent," Dec. 3).

Absolutely nothing justifies such killings. It appears that our society, of which the military is just a reflection of, can justify any barbarous act that seems to be a part of this war. Just because the other side does it does not mean we have to sink to their level.

What are we trying to do in Iraq? Do we want those we liberated for democracy experience it to be no better than the vicious system under Saddam Hussein? By that killing, we created more terrorists who will seek revenge on the United

States a generation from now. If you could ask the British of the 18th century what they thought of our Revolutionary War tactics, they would have called it barbarous and they would have labeled us as terrorists. In those days war was an "honorable" thing where men met on a designated battlefield in bright uniforms, standing face to face and walking toward each other as they shot their muskets.

American rebels, however, learned many of our tactics from the American Indians. These tactics included hiding behind trees and dressing in drab colors, as well as ambushing the marching redcoats

Don't be ashamed of your forefathers. Their "primitive and barbarous" tactics caused us to win and create the greatest country in the world. We should not forget our roots when dealing with other nations

U.S. Air Force Mai. (ret.) Klaus-D. Paul Kaiserslautern, Germany

Angry, sad over front page

Has the fact that my brothers and sis ters in arms are being killed almost daily become so routine that the front page of the Dec. 14 Mideast edition had "Seven Marines killed in weekend battles" ("7 Marines killed in weekend Iraq battles," Europe edition) and then half of the cover was filled with pictures of the NFL playoffs?

That not only infuriates me, it saddens me. Seven proud Americans paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country and in a fight to free the sovereign nation of Iraq from the insurgency that plagues it. Marines die, that's a fact we accept. We've fought wars in every clime and place for more than 229 years. Countless Marines have paid this price so Americans' basic rights are protected.

Stripes, don't dishonor my brothers like this. The Corps is small and we are a very protective family. When you dishon-

or one of us, you dishonor us all. The playoffs are very exciting for us. Sports scores are a big morale booster,

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

Send your letters to-

II S Mail-International mail-Stars and Stripes Stars and Stripes Postfach 1330 Unit 29480 64345 Griesheim APO AF 09211

Via fax: [Country code +49] (0) 6155/601395; DSN 349-8395 E-mail: letters@mail.estripes.osd.mil

but there is a time and a place for things.

A cover like this one I can accept from a liberal media outlet, but Stars and Stripes is supposed to be for us. Marine Sgt. Salju K. Thomas

Baghdad

I applaud the Air Force decision to increase its cargo flying within this theater ("Dangers on ground in Iraq lead to in-crease airlift use," Dec. 13, Mideast edition)

Sherpas are up to the task

However, I must illuminate another small, relatively unknown fact. The Army's Cargo Airplane Initiative is well under way. It would place larger, more-capable cargo airplanes within the Army to support its internal theater airlift requirements.

This fact does not sit well with our Air Force brethren. The Army's only cargo fixed wing currently is the C-23 Sherpa. For two years now Sherpas have been fly-ing out of Kuwait and this last year solely out of Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Numerous times we have completed missions that the Air Force would not. Hours flown, missions, cargo transported and personnel carried are classified. but I can tell you that the numbers are record-setting for our mission. The majority of these missions are to austere airports and runways the Air Force initially (and some even now) deem unusable for its aircraft.

The Army does indeed have a valid need for its own increased intra-theater airlift, and the Army needs to manage it in order to continue the valued support to troops in the field. It is my fervent hope the Air Force realizes this

Chief Warrant Officer 4 David P. Smith Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq

Award shouldn't resemble CIB

Whatever is decided on awarding other military occupational specialties badge or ribbon of some sort, it should

not resemble in any way the Combat Infantryman Badge ("Alternative to Army badge," letter, Nov. 12).

Sure, the battlefield has changed and we find certain specialties close, in view or even in the battle, but the infantry is al-

ways "in" first, and always will be. I, being an 11B (infantryman), know they do take part in the action sometimes to support us. But we are always there to implement medical aid when our fearless combat medic is alongside another squad. We are alone to conduct our battles to the best of our ability; "man up" in the face of death, while we treat our wounded, conduct radio ops, breach the obstacles and search for roadside bombs and vehicle-borne bombs

We like to keep ourselves separated from the rest of the Army because, well, we are. A combat patch is already given to any MOS who has been in a combat zone. If they want recognition as being in combat, first we as 11B should acknowledge it, then recommend it. Anyone who is brave enough to face an enemy machine gun and fires back, risking what the infantry does every day, deserves credit. But we don't give the Medal of Honor to every infantryman who is killed in action. Whatever is decided for those who

fired back during contact should not mimic the traditions and awards given to those who have endured the hardships and training of our most beloved soldier, the infantryman.

Pfc Kevin Holt Camp Habaniyah, Iraq

How to support troops

Many times we take things for granted. Having friends and family over for the holidays, sharing a big meal, being able to go shopping, enjoying all of the good things we have here

We have thousands of men and women around the world giving their all for this freedom; men and women who are away from home, family and friends and who need to know they are loved and missed, and most of all that they have our support and respect for serving our country. A country that God has made. A country not Democratic or Republican. A country that stands proud of our military men and women who honor us every day by serving in the armed forces.

So, what can we do to show them our appreciation? Contact people. Get everyone to write

letters, send cards, send small gifts or any care packages. Contact the United Service Organizations for information on how you can send them Contact the local television and radio

stations and ask them to help. Go out and buy a support ribbon for your car. Fly our flag high. I, for one, am going to let our men and

women know that they are missed, loved and honored. **Bob Dillon**

Winters, Calif.

Doonesbury



OPINION

The nuance of necessary deception in war

an reporters be trusted with war information? Can the government be trusted? We're still finding out one of the great successes of World War II was Operation Forti-

James Pinkerton



tude, aimed at cloaking the D-Day invasion in a "bodyguard of lies." The Allies wished to convince the Germans that the assault across the English Channel would land near the town of Pas de Calais, at the Channel's narrowest

point.
So the Allies created a phantom army, with inflatable rubber tanks and papier-mâché airplanes. To further the illu-

pier-mâché airplanes. To further the illusion, they created a fake navy, too, and put out faux radio transmissions. Meanwhile, the real assault armies were assembling farther south. And on the morning of June 6, 1944, the Allies landed at Normandy, 200 miles from Calais.

Not only was the Normandy coast lightly defended, but the Germans were still convinced that the "real" attack was coming at Calais. By the time they figured out the deception, it was too late.

Operation Fortitude was, in the words of Air Force historian Ernest Tavares Jr., a "near perfect plan," leaving the Germans "essentially blind." And that's the way to win a war.

So to the obvious question: Could anything so sneaky as Operation Fortitude be pulled off today? Could thousands of people be kept quiet in a world full of cell phones, e-mail and text-messaging, all interfacing with an ever-proliferating number of cable news channels, bloggers and list-servers? Which is to say, in other words, that "the media" today aren' tiust a few reporters who might be per-laiked or intimidated into keeping a secret. Instead, the media include millions of people representing different traditions, different countries, different posities, different posities, direct posities, direct posities, different posities, direct posities, direct posities, american forces deposed Saddam Hussein in just three weeks of fighting last year.

Yet on the other hand, the larger objectives in the "global war on terror" — defeating the insurgents, democratizing Iraq, winning hearts and minds across the Middle East — remain to be achieved. And it's apparent that reports and images from Iraq, most notably the Abu Ghraib prison photos and the video of the Marine shooting a wounded man in Fallujah, aren't helping the American cause.

It's not so much that the media are unrustworthy—although many in the military might argue that they are—it's that the "press," from Al-Jazeera reporters to the humblest freelancer, is simply uncontrollable. And absent an enormous paradiem shift, that's not going to change.

But now, the military is preparing just such a paradigm shift. On Dec. 1, the Los Angeles Times revealed that in September the Pentagon had established a "strategic communications office" to wage information — or disinformation — warfare in Iraq. The Times reported that an Oct. 14 an-



Courtesy of Signal Corps

With Operation Fortitude in motion, U.S. assault troops huddle behind the protective front of their landing craft as it nears a beachhead on the northern coast of France on D-Day.

nouncement by the Marines of a seeming attack on Fallujah, carried on CNN, was, in fact, a fake-out of the enemy.

It's hard to argue against deceiving the enemy in wartime, but it must also be noted that such deceptions are soon covered by the media, which is to say, uncovered.

Of course, it's possible that the military has launched a hundred other Fortitude-like fakes that have gone unreported. But now we know — or we think we know — that the Pentagon plans to create a "director of central information" to control "strategic information." That new Penta-

gon post is not to be confused with the "national intelligence director," the new slot created to oversee the CIA and other spy outfits—one thinks.

But now that the directorate of information has been revealed, what does that revelation do to the American government's credibility? Is really a good idea to have, in effect, a Ministry of Deception if its existnce is known to the world? In the future, it might be harder for the enemy to know what's going on, and that's good. But it will surely be harder for Americans to know what's going on, and that's not os good.

James Pinkerton is a Newsday columnist.

GIs also suffer wounds that medicine can't heal

BY ROBERT CORNEJO

oesn't it figure that a second in lieutenant got shot?" I overheard a noncommisbuddy. It was the afternoon of Dee. 20, 1989, and I was being evacuated to a military hospital in Panama on board a troop-carrying special operations helicopter.

spectuage atoms metalliced.

Spectuage and the spectuage and the spectuage atoms and the first days of pointion Just Cause, the U.S. invasion of Penama. Since that day, I haven't often recounted my experience to others, and I mention Panama now not toel-brate that war but to bring attention to those who return home wounded from Irrag or Afghanistan. Our soldiers today are trained to do everything that the military asks of them in combat except maybe two things: come home wounded from war and deal with life afterward.

As a young field artillery officer, I was part of the first wave of the 82nd Airborne task force that parachtted into Torrijos International Airport near Panama City at 2 a.m. on Dec. 20. Our mission was to assemble around the howitzers that had been airdropped onto the airport ahead of us. After International Airport on the airport ahead of us. After met up with my unit and our guns, we were ordered to move from the airfield to a forward firing position to provide support for an infantry assault against the Panamanian Defense Forces.

Around noon our convoy of two howitzers, several trucks and a light tank departed the relative safety of the secure airport. To get our guns to the planned firing position near the Pacora River, our heavily armed ground drove through the village of Cabuya. A couple of blocks short of the north end of brucks and the plant of the

convoy, we returned fire. I slid off my truck, got into a prone position in the street and fired a few rounds at the ambushers. Then I was hit. I felt a sharp, stinging pain in my right hip, and my leg stiffened in a muscle spasm. A noncommissioned officer riding in the truck picked me up, and the convoy quickly moved out.

I had been shot by an M-16 bullet — most likely friendly fire that ricocheted off the street during the brief firefight, which had lasted at most a minute. Both Panamanians in the car were dead. Two of us were wounded

Twenty-four hours later, I was back in the United States in a hospital bed at San Antonio's Brooke Army Medical Center. In the next few days, I underwent surgery on my wound and was transferred back to my home station at Fort Bragg, N.C. While I should have been happy to be recovering well. I wasn't, Instead I was embarrassed

when I called my father in Virginia to tell him that I had been deployed to Panama and had returned to the States wounded.

On Christmas Day I watched TV coverage of the Panama invasion and began to replay the minute-long firefight in my mind over and over. I blamed myself for getting off the truck and onto the street. I was angry at myself for becoming the stereotypical lieutenant who gets himself wounded during his first combat experience. I wondered if I had failed my men by departing the battle early. I asked "what lift" again and again.

I am not in a position to speak for the wounded veterans of today, I can only assume that some of our current war wounded experience feelings similar to mine. I believe that most of these men and women are not ready to share their combat experience with others, as I do now. For a time, they may choose to deliberate on that moment they were wounded. For me, this routine con-

tinued for the better part of a year, until life's other concerns eventually displaced my internal debate.

The anniversary of the Panama invasion elicits personal memories for me. Others will have similar memories as they think back to the day they were wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan. Many of today's combat wounded will not be as lucky as I was, but will suffer permanent disability resulting from the devastating effect of modern insurgent wearous.

I don't think our military can ever train soldiers to prepare for coming home wound-ed or for dealing with life afterward. But I do think that we as Americans should keep in mind that most wounded veterans don't want unnecessary or extraordinary attention. What they are more likely to want is privacy and understanding while they come to grips with the moment they were hit.

Robert Cornejo is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Going for the gold

Salvation Army hopes mysterious donations of coins keep coming

> BY JAN DENNIS The Associated Press

PEORIA, Ill. - Salvation Army officials don't know who has been dropping gold coins into their holi-

day kettles over the past 20 years, but they hope the mysterious donations continue.

More than 300 gold coins have been collected since the early 1980s, with an average value of about \$200 each, said Cliff Marshall, spokesman for the charity in Chicago, where the tradition

Chicago bell-ringers have brought in 10 gold coins so far this year. They aren't the only

In Kirksville, Mo., someone donated a gold coin that was minted 20 years before the Civil War worth nearly \$1,000. A \$400 South African Krugerrand was dropped in a kettle in Bloomington, Ill., meaning 12 extra families will get a complete Christmas dinner.

But officials still don't know where the coins come from.

The mysterious tradition began in 1982, when someone slipped a gold coin into a kettle in the Chicago suburb of Crystal Lake. The donations have occurred there ever since and have spread across Illinois and about a dozen other

	EXCHANGE	RATE	5
Ī	Military rat	es	
	Furn costs	\$1.3	639
	Jananese ven (Dec. 20)	103	00.9
	Japanese yen (Dec. 20) South Korean won (Dec.	18) 1.03	00.9
	Commercial r	rates	
	Bahrain (Dinar) British pound	0.3	768
	British pound	\$1.9	384
	Canada (Dollar)	1.	227
	Denmark (Krone) Egypt (Pound)	5.5	977
	Egypt (Pound)	6.2	251
	Euro Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3287/0.7	526
	Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7	804
	Hungary (Forint)	185	5.98
	Iceland (Krona)	63.	245
	Israel (Shekel)	4.3	384
	Japan (Yen)	104	1.31
	Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2	947
	Norway (Krone) Philippines (Peso)	6.1	851
	Philippines (Peso)	51	5.21
	Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7	497
	Singapore (Dollar) South Korea (Won)	1.6	448
	South Korea (Won)	106	0.00
	Switzerland (Franc)	11	582
	Thailand (Baht) Turkey (Lira)	5	3.22
	Turkey (Lira)	1,408,45	1.00
	(Military exchange ra	ates are th	oșe
	available to customers a	at military ba	nk-
	ing facilities in the cour	ntry of issuai	nce
	for Japan, South Korea	, Germany,	tne
	Netherlands and the U For nonlocal currency	initea Kingai	om.
	(i.e., purchasing British p	exchange ra	tes
	nv), check with your loca	ounds in Gen	na-
	ing facility. Commercial	rator are let	HIK-
	bank rates provided for	roforonco ud	bon.
	buying currency. All figu	wor are fore	lon
	currencies to one dollar	ares are for	tho
	British pound, which is	rentecept for	Lie
	dollars-to-pound, and th	o ouro which	b le
	dollars-to-euro.)	e euro, willo	11 13

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES Prime rate Discount rate Federal funds market rate 3-month bill



ADI ES CITY (IOWA) PRESS/A

This gold coin, valued at \$360, was found in the Salvation Army kettle at a Theisen's store in Charles City, Iowa. The tradition of placing anon-ymous donations of gold coins in the kettles dates back to 1982.

The phantom donors almost always conceal the coins, usually folding dollar bills around them. They range from small gold pieces worth about \$15 to Krugerrands that can fetch \$600 from col-

The gold coins have been worth a total of about \$60,000 That's just a fraction of the \$3.5 million collected by the Salvation Army last year in Chicago alone. But the mystery donors may have more than money on their minds

Some believe the coin droppers might have been helped by the relief agency in the past. Or they might just like the thrill of seeing the donation play out in the media. One woman called last summer to say her late mother left gold coins in the kettles each year because she liked the buzz it created, Marshall said.

Rich Draeger, spokesman for Salvation Army's Peoria division, said the timing of the donations suggests they might be an inside ioh. He said gold coins tend to show up when giving starts to lag, indicating it might an attempt by the charity to generate extra pub-

"It seems to be a benefactor who knows that it's going to mean a lot more than a \$300 or \$400 coin - it's going to bring attention," Draeger said.

Daniel Borochoff, president of the American Institute of Philanthropy, a charity watchdog group, doubts the Salvation Army is planting the coins to create public-

"They're a heavy-duty Christian group, so that may go against

their principals," he said.

Marshall, for one, hopes the
mystery is never solved. "It's more fun to speculate than to know for sure," he said.

Kia Spectra gets lowest rating in frontal crash test

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Kia Spectra is the first vehicle since 2001 to get the insurance industry's worst safety rating in a frontal crash test, according to results released Sunday.

The Spectra, a small, four-door sedan that starts at \$13,240, got the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's lowest rating of poor after a crash test dummy's head, chest and legs were injured in the 40 mph crash test. The last car to get that rating was the Chevrolet Cavalier in 2001.

"Most manufacturers have figured out how to design vehicles to do a good job protecting people in frontal crashes," said Adrian Lund, the institute's chief operating officer. "Kia lags behind its competitors."

Kia Motors America Inc. said it has met with institute officials to determine how to improve the vehicle's performance. The company also said it was comfortable with the level of safety the Spectra provides.

"Occupant safety is a priority for Kia," the company said in a statement. "In the development of this product the Spectra has undergone a battery of tests, and we continue to have a high degree of confidence in the real-world protection offered by this vehicle

Mazda 3 and the Hyundai Elantra earned the institute's highest rating of good in this round of testing. The Suzuki Forenza and the Saturn ION were rated acceptable, the institute's second-highest rating.

The institute tests vehicles in a 40 mnh crash and rates them based on three criteria: the amount the vehicle crumples into the driver's space, injuries to the crash test dummy and a slow-motion analysis of how well the seat belt worked.

A good rating means a driver wearing a seat belt probably would suffer only minor injuries in a similar crash. A poor rating means a risk of severe injury ex-

Lund said he was surprised the Spectra performed so poorly. The institute has conducted this test for a decade and most manufacturers have built vehicles that can withstand it, he said.

Lund said 11 small cars have good ratings. Besides the Mazda 3 and the Hyundai Elantra they are the Volkswagen New Beetle and Jetta, the Subaru Impreza and Aerio, the Mini Cooper, the Toyota Corolla, the Ford Focus, the Mitsubishi Lancer and the Honda Civic.

Most of those cars were tested earlier by the insurance institute. which tests vehicles as they are redesigned.

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Computers for good will

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK - If a new computer is on your wish list this holiday, you might think about donating your old model to charity.

Making a noncash computer donation allows you to reclaim some value from older electronic equipment and take a deduction on your income taxes. But like other noncash donations. giving up your computer isn't as easy as hauling your hardware to the nearest Goodwill. Here are some guidelines to follow: Before you donate, assess the value of your computer. You can find the value by checking Internet auction Web sites or even computer manufacturer Web sites.

Deductions are valid only for gifts to a recognized charity, meaning it has IRS approval to register as a tax-exempt organi-

Before you donate, check out the charity at www.charitynavi gator.com.

You also might check out The Used Computer Mall at www. usedcomputer.com. The Web site lists charities that accept new or used computer equipment. It also provides recycling guidelines in case your computer is a real dinosaur — too old to go anywhere but the recycling

Remember to erase all the files from your computer's hard drive before you donate. At best others will laugh at the poetry and e-mails you saved. At worst, you could be a victim of identity theft.

Look for so-called disk-cleaning software, which will clear your computer's hard drive.

Be sure to get a receipt for ur donation from the charity You'll need it to take the deduction come tax time

Some Mass. firms deny gay spouses benefits

BOSTON - Some employers with federally regulated health plans have decided not to ex-tend health benefits to spouses of gay workers, saying the plans are not bound by Massachusetts' same-sex marriage law.

General Dynamics Corp. FedEx Corp. and Caritas Christi Health Care are among the employers that do not provide married gay workers in Massachusetts with the same health benefits available to beterosexual married couples.

"In determining the definition of dependent spouse, General Dynamics applies the spouse definition from the federal Defense of Marriage Act," the Virginia-based defense contractor, which has 3,000 workers in Massachusetts, said in a statement to the Boston Globe.

The 1996 Defense of Marriage Act denied federal recognition of same-sex marriages by defining marriage as between a man and a woman

The employers provide medi-

cal care through self-insured health plans in which the companv - not an insurer - collects premiums and pays the medical bills of its workers.

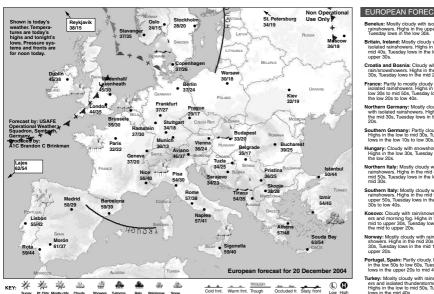
Such self-insured which are used to save money amid skyrocketing health care costs, are regulated by federal

Sharen Litwin, a Boston labor lawyer, said companies with self-funded plans likely cannot be compelled to extend cover-age to spouses of gay workers.

Some employers that self-insure, however, extended coverage to spouses after May 17, when gay marriage became legal in Massachusetts. They include Gillette Co., National Grid USA, and UniteHere, the union of garment and hotel workers.

Gav rights supporters argue that same-sex marriage opens the door to reinterpretation of a host of state and federal laws. "There are some good legal

reasons why we might be able to challenge [denial of benefits]." Michele Granda, attorney for Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders.



47/31

AFRICA

EC 64

67/51

Cairo 68/47

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 30s, Tuesday lows in the low 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid 40s, Tuesday lows in the lower to

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with rain/snowshowers. Highs in the mid 30s, Tuesday lows in the mid 20s.

France: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the low 30s to mid 50s, Tuesday lows in

the low 20s to low 40s. Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid 30s, Tuesday lows in the mid 20s.

Southern Germany: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low to mid 30s, Tuesday

Hungary: Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the low 30s, Tuesday lows in

the low 20s. Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s, Tuesday lows in the low to mid 30s.

Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 50s, Tuesday lows in the upper 30s to low 40s.

Kosovo: Cloudy with rain/snowshow-ers and morning fog. Highs in the mid to upper 30s, Tuesday lows in the mid to upper 20s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with rain/snow-showers. Highs in the mid 20s to mid 30s, Tuesday lows in the mid 10s to upper 20s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 50s to low 60s, Tuesday lows in the upper 20s to mid 40s.

Turkey: Moslty cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low to mid 50s, Tuesday lows in the mid 40s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

MIDEAST

w Dolhi 72/47

Islam 61/37

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

SUN & MOON

LO 72 45 -10 49 72 36 34 63 47 41 54 20 55 57 66 28 63 48 39 69 36 65 74 79 34 74 86 59 31 76 82 53 52 83 6 Full mod 26 Dec TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK THE UNITED STATES TODAY Cli Snow Clir Clir Clir Clir PCldy Cir Cir Cir Cir 43 50 50 45 41 74 23 18 21 34 49 21 19 22 23 21 56 37 41 22 19 73 70 24 46 53 41 22 65 16 18 47 37 3 CI 16 7 22 67 55 30 26 33 29 54 24 52 21 41 77 23 39 48 29 31 25 24 28 38 49 35 26 16 38 31 33 54 24 22 55 60 44 47 39 43 30 24 27 26 30 47 51 31 46 17 13 21 17 36 21 33 29 29 17 46 14 19 8 34 15 20 17 22 20 17 22 43 12 PCidy Snow Cir PCidy Snow Cir Cir PCidy PCidy Cir Cir Cir Cir Cir Cir 70 19 14 56 21 68 23 25 69 24 56 43 40 40 39 27 71 13 7 Snow Grant PCity P PCidy PCidy Snow PCidy Cir PCidy Cir Cir Cidy Cláy Clá POláy POláy POláy POláy POláy Snow Cldy Cl Knoxville Lake Ch POIdy Snow Cli POidy POidy POidy Cli PCidy Snow PCidy Snow Cir Cir Cir Cir PCidy Cir 30 29 6 25 33 19 28 41 34 35 50 24 45 28 39 5 14 26 Cldy PCldy Snow Snow Cir Cir Cir POIdy Cit POIdy 33 51 20 55 24 57 56 44 24 38 22 28 40 40 22 33 33 47 31 25 Snow PCldi CI PCldi CI CI PCIdy PCIdy Cli 25 24 12 32 51 38 85 48 36 18 17 11 27 34 32 75 31 23 Caby Caby PCaby PCaby PCaby onoii Cir s~ œ.

64/33

34/24

62/35



Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS STRIPES. Your Hometown Newspaper

PAGE 18 · STARS AND S

Free holiday sign

HOUMA — Some people wanted to know why "Season's Greetings" adorned the Terrebonne Parish Government Tower, instead of "Merry Christmas."

It turns out the decision had nothing to do with religion or political correctness

The sign was free.

Parish council members said that if someone donates a "Merry Christmas" sign, it will go up, also. The "Season's Greetings" sign was donated to the parish by the Terrebonne General Medical Center a few years ago.

Holiday lights Web cam

LAFAYETTE — After festonning his house with 17,000 Christmas lights, Alex Komarnitsky wanted more than just passers-by to enjoy the spectacle. He got his holiday wish. His interactive Web site allowing Internet users to turn the lights on and

off with the click of a mouse is attracting thousands.

Another Web site recently alerted users about his interactive nage. "It said "This gny's Web site."

ed users about his interactive page. "It said, 'This guy's Web site is funny. Turn the lights on and off and annoy the neighbors,' "Komarnitsky said.

This month alone, more than 1.3 million Internet browsers — including about 38,000 from a German domain — have visited the site.

Prison for abuser

MA NORTHAMPTON — A Huntington man was entenced to serve nine to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to breaking into his estranged wife's home and ambushing her when she returned from a court hearing that extended a restraining order against him.

Police said Donald G. Cornelius Jr., 47, hid in the basement until his wife came home from the courthouse, and then attacked her with a metal bar from an exercise machine.

Kimberly Anderson told the judge at the sentencing that when she is home alone, she still imagines the sound of his steps on the stairs.

Her nose was broken, she underwent several operations to repair her face, and she lost most of the hearing in one ear in the attack.

Drug test complaint

SAN ANTONIO — A fired drug screener was free on bond after he was accused of having sex with a woman in exchange for a false report that there were no sign of drugs in her urine.

Adrian Barrientos was released by U.S. Magistrate Judge Nancy Nowak on a \$25,000 unsecured bond. Barrientos, 29, faces a charge of obstruction of justice, which carries a possible penalty of up to 10 years in federal prison.

Barrientos, formerly employed by a company that drug-tests convicted offenders, was accused by an FBI agent in a criminal complaint of misdeeds involving a female supervised offender who used cocaine this summer.

The complaint stated that Barrientos asked the woman if her urine would test positive. After she answered "yes," Barrientos told her



that he would falsely report on her drug-test form that her urine tested negative in exchange for sex, the complaint said.

Hefty donation

MINNEAPOLIS — A prosperous businessman didn't think he was entitled to his 2004 Social Security payments, so he became an early Santa Claus for the Salvation Army.

The man dropped a check for \$14,845 into a bell ringer's red kettle outside a bookstore in downtown Minneapolis.

The man, who declined to be identified, released a written statement through Salvation Army spokeswoman Annette Bauer, who had sought out the man for an explanation.

He said he will receive \$20,295 in Social Security payments in 2004 and didn't really need it because "I have considerable income now and should continue to have considerable income if I ever do rettre."

Band to play for Bush

NV RENO — The McQueen High School band will finally get its chance to perform for President Bush. The Presidential Inaugural Committee chose the Reno school to represent Nevada in the Jan. 20 Inauguration Day pa



It takes teamwork
Although the wind was a little
calmer, it was still strong enough
to make it difficult for Wilson
Elementary School fifth-graders
Dylan Ladwig, Ryan Sager and
Brian Jun as they take down the
Wisconsin and American flags after
school in Beaver Dam, Wis

rade in Washington.
Two months ago, the
band was barred
from performing at a
Reno campaign rally attended by Bush. A school
district policy prolibits
school-sponsored organizations from engaging in
party politics.

Unpaid wages inquiry

ALBANY — Owners of a diner have agreed to pay \$76,000 to end an investigation into whether they failed to pay workers minimum wage and overtime in a case both sides expect will be repeated elsewhere in the state.

The Front Page Diner on Staten Island settled with state Attorney General Eliot's Spitzer's investigation without admitting guilt, according to a Spitzer spokesman and the diner's attorney.

Spitzer accused the diner's owners of paying wages as low as \$2.25 an hour to wait staff between August 1999 and August 2004.

The minimum wage for restaurant workers accepting tips is \$3.30 an hour; while the minimum hourly wage for other workers is \$5.15.

Assistant attorneys general Michael Higgins and James Versocki also said the diner paid no overtime to cooks, busboys, and dishwashers despite work weeks up to 60 hours.

The diner's payroll process will be subject to monitoring and help in contacting workers and former workers to collect from the settlement, according to the agreement.

School shelves bonuses

GREELEY — The University of Northern Colorado shelved plans to award \$189,000 in bonuses to administrators next year after an angry backlash from faculty members who haven't gotten a merit raise in two years.

Faculty got a one-time payment equaling 2 percent of their salaries in June while nine administrators received \$103,000 in bonuses. UNC President Kay Norton suspended next year's bonus for administrators and promised a campus-wide discussion of compensation

Slaying probe closed

AL BEAUREGARD — Prosecutors closed an investigation into a triple slaying by presenting to a grand jury circumstantial evidence found in a suicide note.

Bernard Vaughan, 69, shot himself two days after the March 26 shooting deaths of three men on his property. The note made reference to post-traumatic stress disorder, a result of his military service, and mentioned the "turmoil of the last 24 hours," Sheriff Jay Jones

Record farmland values

AMES — The value of Iowa farmland has hit an-all time.
An annual survey by Iowa State University shows that farmland values jumped 15.6 percent this year, hitting a record \$2,629.

That's an average increase of \$354 an acre. Scott County's average price was \$4,167 dollars an acre, the first time the average price of farmland in Iowa topped \$4,000.



Sweet holiday treat A1,150 pound polar bear at SeaWorld San Diego's Wild Arctic attraction licks to a gingerbread man before devouring the tasty treat.



Blue reindeer

Bruce Aiken Elementary
kindergarten student Mighuel Perez
is not too excited to be singing Christmas carols at the Sunrise Mall in
Brownsville Texas.

around the 80-degree mark under clear skies



A man relaxes in the warmth of the sun during the noon hour at a plaza in downtown Los Angeles. Last week temperatures hovered

Dancers Jeffrey Kazin, foreground, Amber Balancing act Sloan, left background, David Parker, cen ter, and Emily Tschiffely pose from Parker's "Nut/Cracked" in a New York studio. Parker and his Bang Group performed the piece at the Dance Theater Workshop in New York.



Who goes there? A young snowy owl perches on an insulator atop a power pole along near Somers, Mont.



The Creekmore Holiday Express rolls through the tunnel of lights in this long exposure at Creemore Park's decoration of lights in Fort Smith, Ark,

Burglar facing hard time

NEW BRUNSWICK — A burglar who broke into more than 100 homes in five counties and stole \$2 million to support his casino gambling habit faces a long prison term.

Samuel Krosky, 44, could get 25 years in prison when he's sentenced April 1. As part of a plea agreement with prosecutors Krosky is required to make restitution to his victims.

'Predator' to stay in iail

VA PORTSMOUTH — A circuit judge ruled that Roy Young Jr., 32, who is serving a six-year sentence for molesting two girls, is a "sexually violent predator" and will remain in state custody even after his term is completed. A state law passed in 2003 allows sex offenders to be held if it is proved that they're likely to commit similar acts

Union contracts OK'd

MI LANSING — The state Civil Service Commission approved pay contracts for unionized state workers and set pay levels for others not covered by union contracts. The agreements include pay increases of 10 percent spread over three years. As a concession to save the state money, most workers will receive 38 hours of pay for 40-hour work weeks from January until next November.

Waste ink dumping

CA SAN FRANCISCO — An Oakland newspaper publishing company and two men have been charged with crimes for allegedly dumping hundreds of gallons of waste ink in a vacant lot in San Francisco.

Alameda Publishing Corp., which publishes the San Francisco Post, the Richmond Post and the Berkeley Tri-City Post as well as the Spanish-language El Mundo, was charged with felony dumping violations that could result in millions of dollars in fines.

The company has already paid the \$9,000 to clean up the site.

The company's plant manager, Victor Martinez 61 has been arrested along with William Araujo, 50. Both are charged with illegal transportation and disposal of hazardous waste and could be sentenced to three years in state prison if convicted

Glass tower planned

DE WILMINGTON — A developer announced plans to build a \$65 million, 18-story glass office tower in Wilmington. The tower to be built by the Buccini-Pollin Group is the third speculative downtown office building to be announced this year. An office tower without a lead tenant hasn't been erected in downtown Wilmington for more than 10 years.

Permits for strippers

SAN ANTONIO — The City Council on Friday approved a measure that will require strippers to wear permits while they are on stage.

City Councilman Chip Haass pushed the amended human display ordinance as making it easier for police to identify dancers.

But a lawyer representing sever-

al strip clubs in the city said it would also create a physical danger by making it easier for an obsessed customer to find out a dance er's real name and where she lives.

Attorney Jim Deegear has said he will file a lawsuit challenging the measure, which the 11-member council passed unanimously early Friday during a marathon meeting that began Thursday after-

Deegear says the city's strict rules are part of an effort to drive his clients out of business.

Llama mistaken for deer

MADISON — A hunter faces two charges after shooting a llama that he mistook for a deer

John M. Burger was charged with trespassing and a misdemean or count of mistreatment of animals after he killed a llama named Snicker Doodle Silk that was grazing on land owned by Susan and Kevin Kovacs.

According to a criminal complaint, Burger was on land adjacent to the Kovacses' property when he shot the animal Nov. 9.

Burger told a Dane County sheriff's deputy he was in a tree stand when he spotted an animal grazing about 60 yards north.

Burger said he thought the animal was a deer, probably a doe, and he waited for it to raise its head. It did not and he shot at it. He then walked toward the animal and saw herds of llamas running around, realizing his mistake.

Burger reported the accidental shooting to the Kovacs family and apologized.

The trespassing charge carries a fine of up to \$1,000 and the other count carries a fine of up to \$10,000 and a nine-month jail

Internet while camping

AUSTIN — Campers at five state parks will soon be able to check e-mail or browse the Internet. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced a pilot program to offer high-speed wireless Internet service at Choke Canvon. Blanco, Balmorhea, Goose Island and Ray Roberts Lake state parks starting Jan. 1.

Security funding cut

TN MEMPHIS — U.S. Rep. Harold Ford has asked Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge in a letter why Memphis' homeland security funding has been cut from \$8.2 million to noth.

Ford indicated that the threat of terror still exists in the city major distribution hub with one of the busiest cargo airports in the world. The cut will affect funding for first responders.

Mining project begins

NV BATTLE MOUNTAIN -Newmont Mining Corp. hegan construction on the controversial Phoenix gold mine site where copper and gold have been mined for almost 150 years.

The \$200 million project near Battle Mountain raised concerns over acid rock drainage and long-term effects on nearby water. A federal review found actions by Newmont will minimize environmental risks.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at http://imyafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/									
	Camping Mark	(THILLIAN THE	(1911)	MONDAY, DECEMBER 2	1	(1911 050590)	(0)	(THE TANKS	
	(AFN-FAMILY) The Wild Thornberrys	AFN-MOVIE Movie ** "Awake to Dan-	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS) SportsCenter	(SPECTRUM) 30-Minute Meals	(AFN-PACIFIC)	
9:00 9:30	The Wild Thornberrys	movie * * "Awake to Dan- ger" (1995, Suspense) Tori	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy! Headline News	The Beltway Boys Fox News Watch	Golf Wendy's Three-Tour Chal-	Paula's Home Cooking	Jeopardy! Headline News	
	ChalkZone (EI)	Spelling, Michael Gross.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Bulls and Bears	lenge Final Day. From Reflec-	Designers' Challenge	ESPNews	
10:00 10:30	ChalkZone (EI)	(:45) Movie ++++ "The	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	Cavuto on Business	tion Bay Golf Club in Hender-	Fashion Emergency	Headline News	
11:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Sting" (1973, Comedy-Drama)	(.55) dululing Light	60 Minutes	Dateline NBC	son, Nev. (Taped)	The Soup	60 Minutes	
11:30	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Paul Newman, Robert Redford.	(:17) General Hospital	00	Dutomic NDO	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	oo miinaco	
12:00	Kim Possible "Crush"	Two Depression-era con men plot to swindle a crime lord.	Headline News	Without a Trace "Copy Cat"		Орогиоспист	That '70s Show	Without a Trace "Copy Cat"	
12:30	Kim Possible "Sink or Swim"	piot io swittile a crime ioru.	Judge Judy				Girlfriends "Viva Las Vegas"		
13:00	Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie * * "Sliding Doors"	Today Sigoumey Weaver; Chris	24 "Day 3: 6:00AM - 7:00AM"	Fox and Friends	College Basketball North Car-		24 "Day 3: 6:00AM - 7:00AM"	
13:30	Movie ** * "Lassie: A New	(1998) Gwyneth Paltrow, John Hannah. A train's sliding doors	Isaak; fitness gifts.	.,		olina at Virginia Tech. (Taped)	Being Phoebe"		
14:00	Generation" (1994, Adventure)	Hannah. A train's sliding doors trigger a woman's fantasy life.		Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	1	Ally McBeal	Pacific Report	
14:30	Thomas Guiry, Helen Slater.			The Tonight Show	1			The Tonight Show	
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(2:52) Movie *** "A River	Aladdin "The Vapor Chase"		American Morning		Any Day Now "Rebel With a		
15:30	Full House "The King and I"	Runs Through It" (1992, Dra- ma) Craig Sheffer, Brad Pitt,	ChalkZone (EI)	Late Show		College Basketball Florida	Cause"	Late Show	
16:00	Pokémon	Tom Skerritt.	Mucha Lucha		CNN Live Today	State at Maryland. (Taped)	ER "A Little Help From My Friends"		
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 3 of 4) Aaahh! Real Monsters		Kim Possible	Access Hollywood Headline News			Law & Order "Punk"	Access Hollywood Headline News	
17:00		Access Hollywood	Jeopardy!	Headline News The Late Late Show		0	Law & Order "Punk"	The Late Late Show	
17:30	Rocket Power	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News ESPNews	THE LATE LATE SHOW	FOY Nows	SportsCenter	The Cimeron	THE LATE LATE SHOW	
18:00 18:30	SpongeBob SquarePants Rugrats Stu gets amnesia.	Entertainment ronignt	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller	rox news		The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller	
	Lizzie McGuire	Movie ★★% "Orange County"	AFN Evening News 60 Minutes	Dennis Miller	FOX News	College Basketball North Car-	To Be Announced	Dennis miller	
19:00 19:30	Noel, Noel	(2002, Comedy) Colin Hanks,		Countdown With Keith Olber-	- on Hello	olina State at Washington.	To be Aminounced	Countdown With Keith Olber	
20:00	Smallville "Reaper"	Jack Black.	Without a Trace "Copy Cat"	mann	FOX News	(Taped)	Law & Order "Chosen"	mann	
20:00		(:37) Movie * "Mr. Deeds"		Entertainment Studios.com	1			Entertainment Studios.com	
21:00	Boy Meets World	(2002) Adam Sandler, Winona	24 "Day 3: 6:00AM - 7:00AM"	NFL Monday Quarterback	Studio B With Shepard Smith	NBA Fastbreak	American Hot Rod "Alumatub	NFL Monday Quarterback	
21:30	Boy Meets World	Ryder. A pizza maker inherits a		Headline News	S man onepula simul	NFL Monday Quarterback	3"	Headline News	
22:00	The Cosby Show 'Petanque'	fortune from a distant relative.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	NFL Primetime	Friends	Today Sigourney Weaver; Chr	
22:30	Home Improvement	Holiday Movie Magic	The Tonight Show	1	l	l	Seinfeld "The Dealership"	Isaak; fitness gifts.	
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Decon-	Movie ★★5 "Unlawful Entry"	1		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	Seinfeld	1	
23:30	structing Harry"	(1992) Kurt Russell.	Late Show			Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date		
	•			TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2	1, 2004	•	•	•	
00:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters	(11:00) Movie **s "Unlawful		Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame	
00:30	Rocket Power "D Is for Dad"	Entry" (1992) Ray Liotta	Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		Music guest Aimee Mann, MTV personality and CNBC talk-show	Bear in the Big Blue House	
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	(:05) Movie ** * "The Fight- ing Seabees" (1944, Adven-	Headline News	Connie the Cow	ABC World News Tonight		host Daisy Fuentes.	Connie the Cow	
1:30	Rugrats	ture) John Wayne, Susan Hay-	Monday Night Countdown (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	CBS Evening News	PBA Bowling Orange County		Wheel of Fortune	
2:00	Lizzie McGuire Noel, Noel	ward, Dennis O'Keefe.	(LIVE)	Dr. Phil	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Classic. From Fountain Valley, Calif. (Taped)	Law & Order "Chosen"	Dr. Phil	
2:30	Noei, Noei Smallville "Reaper"	Movie ★★% "Orange County"	NFL Football New England Pa-	Onrah Winfress	Hannity & Colmes	NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns	American Hot Rod "Alumatub	Oprah Winfrey	
3:00	Silialiville neaper	(2002, Comedy) Colin Hanks,	triots at Miami Dolphins, From	Oprail Williey	naming a comies	at Deriver Nuggets. From the	3"	Oprail Williney	
4:00	Boy Meets World	Jack Black.	Pro Player Stadium in Miami.	NBC Nightly News	Headline News	Pepsi Center in Denver. (Live)	Friends	NBC Nightly News	
4:00	Boy Meets World	(:37) Movie * "Mr. Deeds"	(Live)	Judge Judy	Nightly Business Report		Seinfeld "The Dealership"	Judge Judy	
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	(2002, Comedy) Adam Sandler,		Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight	i	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood	
5:30		Winona Ryder, Peter Gallagher. A nizza maker inherits a fortune		(:25) Guiding Light		ESPNews	Caribbean Workout	(:25) Guiding Light	
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	from a distant relative	Headline News	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	NBA Fastbreak	Body Shaping	(:13) General Hospital	
6:30	Blue's Clues		Headline News	1		ESPNews	TIPical Mary Ellen		
7:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	Access Hollywood	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	NFL Total Access	The View	I Spy	
7:30	Bob the Builder		Bear in the Big Blue House					Animaniacs	
8:00	The Wiggles "Funny Greg"	Entertainment Tonight	Connie the Cow	All Grown Up	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	All Grown Up	
8:30	Dora the Explorer "Surprise"	Manda + + #Dy	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil	Teen Kids News (EI)	Tavis Smiley	Callege Beakett - II Door	20 Himste Hee':	Teen Kids News (EI)	
9:00	The Wild Thornberrys The Wild Thornberrys	Movie ** "Danger Island" (1992) Richard Beymer, Kathy	Ur. Pill	Jeopardy! Headline News	Nightline Army Newswatch	College Basketball Princeton at Temple. (Taped)	30-Minute Meals Sweet Dreams	Jeopardy! Headline News	
9:30	ChalkZone (FI)	(1992) Richard Beymer, Kathy Ireland. Plane-crash survivors	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Army Newswatch Hardball With Chris Matthews		Best for Less	FSPNows	
10:00	ChalkZone River adventure.	battle biological freaks.	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	THE COLUMN THE COLUMN THREE COL		Stripped	Pacific Report	
11:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	(10:48) Movie * * * "Ocean's	,	NFL Football New England Pa-	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	E News	NFL Football New England Pa	
11:30	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Eleven" (2001) George Clooney	(:17) General Hospital	triots at Miami Dolphins, From		l	The King of Queens	triots at Miami Dolphins, From	
12:00	Kim Possible (EI)	A suave ex-con assembles a team to rob a casino vault.	Headline News	Pro Player Stadium in Miami.	FOX News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	That '70s Show	Pro Player Stadium in Miami.	
12:30	Kim Possible		Judge Judy	1	l	Announced.	Girlfriends	1	
13:00	Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie ★★★ "Pretty in Pink"	Today Dennis Quaid; holiday	1	Fox and Friends	1	Charmed *Centennial	1	
13:30	Movie ★★% "The Wild Thorn-	(1986, Drama) Molly Ringwald. A poor eclectic teen is romanced	hairstyles.			l	Charmed*		
14:00	berrys Movie" (2002) Voices of Lacey Chabert, Tom Kane.	by a wealthy classmate.		ESPNews	Fox and Friends		Ally McBeal "The Ex-Files"	ESPNews	
14:30	Funniest Home Videos			Pacific Report	l	SportsCenter		Pacific Report	
		(2:51) Movie ★% "The Fan"	I Spy	The Tonight Show	American Morning		Any Day Now "Stay of Execu- tion"	The Tonight Show	
15:00		(1996) Robort Do Niro. *							
15:00 15:30	Full House	(1996) Robert De Niro. A slumping baseball star is	Animaniacs	Late Chem	CNN Live Teden	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	ED to Caled in the Chil	Late Cham	
15:00 15:30 16:00	Full House Pokémon	(1996) Robert De Niro. A	All Grown Up	Late Show	CNN Live Today	Announced.	ER "A Saint in the City"	Late Show	
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30	Full House Pokémon Yu-Gi-Oh!	(1996) Robert De Niro. A slumping baseball star is stalked by a psychotic admirer.	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (EI)		CNN Live Today				
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00	Full House Pokémon Yu-Gi-Oh! Aaahh! Real Monsters	(1996) Robert De Niro. A slumping baseball star is	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (EI) Jeopardy!	Headline News	CNN Live Today		ER "A Saint in the City" Law & Order "True North"	Headline News	
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30	Full House Pokémon Yu-Gi-Oh! Aaahh! Real Monsters Rocket Power	(1996) Robert De Niro. A slumping baseball star is stalked by a psychotic admirer.	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (EI)		CNN Live Today		Law & Order "True North"		
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00	Full House Pokémon Yu-Gi-Oh! Aaahh! Real Monsters	(1996) Robert De Niro. A slumping baseball star is stalked by a psycholic admirer. The Entertainers	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (EI) Jeopardy! Headline News	Headline News		Announced.		Headline News	
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30	Full House Pokémon Yu-Gi-Oh! Aaahh! Real Monsters Rocket Power SpongeBob SquarePants	(1996) Robert De Niro. A slumping baseball star is stalked by a psychotic admirer. The Entertainers Behind the Scenes Entertainment Tonight	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (EI) Jeopardy! Headline News ESPNews	Headline News The Late Late Show		Announced. SportsCenter	Law & Order "True North" The Simpsons	Headline News The Late Late Show	
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00	Full House Pokémon Yu-Gi-Oh! Aaahh! Real Monsters Rocket Power SpongeBob SquarePants Rugrats	(1996) Robert De Niro. A stumping baseball star is stalked by a psychotic admirer. The Entertainers Behind the Scenes Entertainment Tonight Movie *** "Vertical Limit" (2000) Chris ("Droppell IRI")	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (EI) Jeopardy! Headline News ESPNews AFN Evening News	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olber-	FOX News	Announced. SportsCenter NFL Football New England Patricle at Marri Dolobins From	Law & Order 'True North' The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond Star Trek: Enterprise "North Star"	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olber	
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00	Full House Pokémon Yu-Gi-Oh! Aaahh! Real Monsters Rocket Power SpongeBob SquarePants Rugrats	(1996) Robert De Niro. A siumping baseball star is stalled by a psychotic admirer. The Entertainers Behind the Scenes Entertainment Tonight Movie **s "Vertical Limit" (2000) Chris O'Donnell, Bill Paxton, Mountain climbers are	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (EI) Jeopardy! Headline News ESPNews AFN Evening News Smallville "Herealter" Movie *** "Elf" (2003, Com-	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olbermann	FOX News	Announced. SportsCenter NFL Football New England Pa-	Law & Order "True North" The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond Star Trek: Enterprise "North Star" CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olbermann	
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30	Full House Pokémon Yu-Gi-Oh! Aaahhi Real Monsters Rocket Power SpongeBob SquarePants Rugrats Olive, the Other Reindeer Everwood "My Funny Valen- line"	(1996) Robert De Niro. A stumping baseball star is stalked by a psychotic admirer. The Entertainers Behind the Scenes Entertainment Tonight Movie ★ + "Vertical Limit" (2000) Chris O'Donnell, Bil Paxton, Mountain crimbers are trapped in an icy cave on K2.	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (EI) Jeopardy! Headline News ESPNews AFN Evening News Smallville "Hereafter" Movie *** "Elf" (2003, Com-edy) Will Fernel, James Caan.A	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olbermann Entertainment Studios.com	FOX News FOX News	Announced. SportsCenter NFL Football New England Patricle at Marri Dolobins From	Law & Order 'True North' The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond Star Trek: Enterprise 'North Star' CSI: Crime Scene Investiga- tion 'Lucky Strike'	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olbermann Entertainment Studios.com	
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00	Full House Pokémon Yu-Gi-Oh! Aaahh! Real Monsters Rocket Power SpongeBob SquarePants Rugrats Olive, the Other Reindeer Everwood "My Funny Valentine" Sister, Sister "I Do?"	(1996) Robert De Niro. A sixtumping baseball star is stalked by a psychotic admirer. The Entertainers Behind the Scenes Entertainment Tonight Movie *** "Vertical Limit" (2000) Chris O'Donnell, Bill Paxton. Mountain climbers are trapped in an icy case on K2. (13) Movie ** "Double Plat-	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (EI) Jeopardy! Headline News ESPNews AFN Evening News Smallville "Hereafter" Movie *** "Elf" (2003, Com-edy) Will Ferrell, James Caan. A man leaves Saria's workshop to	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olbermann Entertainment Studios.com The Hot List	FOX News	Announced. SportsCenter NFL Football New England Patricle at Marri Dolobins From	Law & Order "True North" The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond Star Trek: Enterprise "North Star" CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olber mann The Hot List	
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:30	Full House Pokémon 'Yu-Gi-Oh! Real Monsters Rockel Power SpongeBob SquarePants Rugrats Olive, the Other Reindeer Everwood "My Funny Velen- tine" Sister, Sister "1 Do?"	(1996) Robert De Niro. A stumpin baseful star is statized by a psychotic admirer. The Entertainers Behind the Scenes Entertainment Tonight Movie *** "Vertical Limit" (2000) Chris O'Donnell, Bill Patotn. Mountain cimbers are trapped in an icy cave on K2. (13) Movie ** "Double Plat. inum" (1999) Johan Ross.	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (EI) Jeopardy! Headline News ESPNews AFN Evening News Smallville "Hereafter" Movie *** "Elf" (2003, Com- edy) Will Ferrell, James Caan. A man leaves Santa's workshop to search for his family.	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olbermann Entertainment Studios.com The Hot List Headline News	FOX News FOX News FOX News Studio B With Shepard Smith	Announced. SportsCenter NFL Football New England Patricts at Mami Dolphins. From Pro Player Stadum in Mami.	Law & Order "True North" The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond Star Trek: Enterprise "North Star" CSI: Crime Scene Investiga- tion "Lucky Strike" Jamie's Kitchen	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olbermann Entertainment Studios.com The Hot List Headline News	
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:30 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:30 21:30 22:00	Full House Pokidmon Tu-GI-Oh1 Anahhi Real Monsters Rockel Power Spongelbo SquarePants Rugrats Olive, the Other Reindeer Everwood "My Funny Valenting" Sister, Sister "I Do?" Sister, Sister The Natural" The Cosby Show "Tust Me"	(1996) Robert De Niro. A stumping baseful star is stalked by a psychotic admirer. The Entertainers Behind the Scenes Entertainment Tonight Movie **: "Vertical Limit" (2000) Chris O'Dornell, Bill reapont on micro commerce are trapped on an icy care on RZ. (31) Movie **: "Double Platinum" (1996) Diama Ross. Branch, A fisition your singer's	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (E) Jeopardy! Headline News ESPNews AFN Evening News Smallwille Headler Movie *** "Eff" (2003, Com- only) Will Ferral (2004, Com- only) Will Will (2004, Com- only) Will (2004, Com- only) W	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olbermann Entertainment Studios.com The Hot List	FOX News FOX News	Announced. SportsCenter NFL Football New England Patrics at Mami Dolphins From Pro Player Stadum in Mami.	Law & Order "True North" The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond Star Trek: Enterprise "North Star" CSI: Crime Scene Investiga- tion "Lucky Strike" Jamie's Kitchen Friends	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olber mann The Hot List	
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:30 17:30 17:30 18:30 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:30 22:30 22:30	Full House Pokkmon Yu-Gi-Oh Aaahh Read Monsters Rocket Power SpongeBob SquarePants Rugrats Give, the Other Reindeer Everwood "My Funny Valentine" Sister, Sister 'I Do?" Sister, Sister 'The Natural" The Cosby Show "Trust Me"	(1996) Robert De Niro. A sixtumpin passello tari principal stari principal sta	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (EI) Jeopardy! Headline News ESPNews AFN Evening News Smallville "Hereafter" Movie *** "Elf" (2003, Com- edy) Will Ferrell, James Caan. A man leaves Santa's workshop to search for his family.	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olbermann Entertainment Studios.com The Hot List Headline News	FOX News FOX News FOX News Studio B With Shepard Smith Your World With Neil Cavuto	Announced. SportsCenter NFL Football New England Patricts at Marni Dolphins. From Pro Player Stadum in Marni. The Hot List NFL Live	Law & Order 'Trus North' The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond Star Trek: Enterprise 'North Star' CSt: Crime Scene Investiga- tion 'Lucky Strike' Jamie's Kitchen Friends Sskinfeld	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olbermann Entertainment Studios.com The Hot List Headline News	
15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:30 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:30 21:30 22:00	Full House Pokidmon Tu-GI-Oh1 Anahhi Real Monsters Rockel Power Spongelbo SquarePants Rugrats Olive, the Other Reindeer Everwood "My Funny Valenting" Sister, Sister "I Do?" Sister, Sister The Natural" The Cosby Show "Tust Me"	(1996) Robert De Niro. A stumping baseful star is stalked by a psychotic admirer. The Entertainers Behind the Scenes Entertainment Tonight Movie **: "Vertical Limit" (2000) Chris O'Dornell, Bill reapont on micro commerce are trapped on an icy care on RZ. (31) Movie **: "Double Platinum" (1996) Diama Ross. Branch, A fisition your singer's	All Grown Up Teen Kids News (E) Jeopardy! Headline News ESPNews AFN Evening News Smallwille Headler Movie *** "Eff" (2003, Com- only) Will Ferral (2004, Com- only) Will Will (2004, Com- only) Will (2004, Com- only) W	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olbermann Entertainment Studios.com The Hot List Headline News	FOX News FOX News FOX News Studio B With Shepard Smith	Announced. SportsCenter NFL Football New England Patrics at Mami Dolphins From Pro Player Stadum in Mami.	Law & Order "True North" The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond Star Trek: Enterprise "North Star" CSI: Crime Scene Investiga- tion "Lucky Strike" Jamie's Kitchen Friends	Headline News The Late Late Show Dennis Miller Countdown With Keith Olber mann Entertainment Studios.com The Hot List Headline News	



Read Stripes online at WWW-Stripes - Com

FACES

Obama signs book deal worth \$1.9M

U.S. Sen.-elect Barack Obama, whose 1995 book jumped onto best-seller lists after his keynote address to the Democratic National Convention, has landed a three-book deal worth \$1.9 million.

Crown Publishing Group and Random House Chil-dren's Books, divisions of Random House Inc., an-nounced Friday that Obama will write two books for adults and one for children.

He'll be paid an \$850,000 advance for each adult book and \$200,000 for the children's book, said Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs. Proceeds from the children's book, which Obama will work on with his wife, Michelle, and

their two young daughters, will go to charity, Gibbs said. The contract is contingent on the approval of the Sen-

ate Ethics Committee, he said. Obama, 43, will become the sole black U.S. senator and only the fifth in history - when he is sworn in next

Sheen, Richards expecting another child

Christmas has come early for Charlie Sheen and Denise Richards

The couple are expecting their second child, due in June, People magazine reports. Their first, daughter Sam Sheen, was born in

March "They are incredibly thrilled and I couldn't think of a better Christmas present for the both of them and for little Sam," the magazine quotes Rich-ards' agent, Chuck James.

Richards, and Sheen, 39, married in June 2002. The couple



met while shooting the film "Good Advice" in 2000. They began dating after Richards did guest spots on Sheen's former TV series, "Spin City

Legal troubles continue for DMX

Rapper DMX was arrested for allegedly driving more than 100 mph on a highway in the suburbs of New York City, a week after he pleaded guilty to driving through an airport parking gate while on drugs. The 33-year-old rapper, whose real name is Earl Sim-

mons, was pulled over Wednesday evening on Interstate 684 after driving 104 mph in a 65 mph zone, police said. Because his license had been suspended after the air port incident, Simmons was arrested on charges of third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation. State police said he was also charged with speeding and driving

an unregistered vehicle. Simmons was released on \$350 bail and ordered to anpear in court Jan. 18 in North Castle, about 40 miles north of New York City

His lawyer, Murray Richman, said he could not comment because he had not talked to the rapper Simmons was charged in June with smashing into a

gate with his vehicle at Kennedy Airport after telling a parking lot attendant he was a federal agent. He later admitted to being on Valium at the time.

High-priced high rise for Murdoch

Rupert Murdoch, the billionaire CEO of News Corp. has offered to buy a three-story penthouse for \$44 million, which would be the highest price ever paid for a Manhattan apartment if the deal

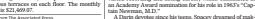
goes through

Murdoch and his family must also be approved by the co-op board of the building, at 834 Fifth Avenue, The New York Times reported Friday, citing an unnamed source informed of the negotiations.

Howard Rubenstein, a spokesman for Murdoch, declined to comment to the Times

The New York Post, which is owned by News Corp., reported last week that the apartment, the former home of Laurance S. Rockefeller, had been sold - but did not name the buyer

The 20-room apartment spans the 14th, 15th and 16th floors of the building. It has 8,000 square feet of floor space and spacious terraces on each floor. The monthly maintenance fee is \$21,469.07



An unusua suspect

Kevin Spacey directs, acts, sings and swings in new Bobby Darin biopic

Kevin Spacey performs during the "Beyond the Sea" tour at Wiltern Theater in Los Angeles on Dec. 6.

By DAVID GERMAIN The Associated Press

TORONTO obby Darin wanted it all and pretty much got it: Pop music stardom, success as a folk singer, a reputation as one of the great stage showmen, ac-

claim as a movie actor When it came to his Darin film biography "Beyond the Sea," Kevin Spacey also wanted it all and pretty much got

it. Spacey starred, directed, co-wrote, sang and danced. He's even going on tour with a 19-piece big band to pro-mote the film, crooning tunes from Darin's eclectic reper-toire, which includes "Splish-Splash," "Mack the Knife," "Dream Lover," "If I Were a Carpenter" and the movie's title track.

Multitasking to that extent is a risk for any actor. For Spacey, the gamble is even greater, coming at a career downturn in which his big-screen bankability has waned.

Since winning his second Academy Award for 1999's "American Beauty," Spacey, 45, has starred in four straight studio flicks that proved to be critical and commer-cial duds — "Pay It Forward," "K-PAX," "The Shipping News" and "The Life of David Gale

"The studio films I've done, I was an actor for hire, so the responsibility of being the storytellwasn't mine," Spacey said in an interview at September's Toronto In-ternational Film Festival, where "Beyond the

Sea" premiered. "And in this case it is, so if this film works, it's because of the vast talents of a great number of people. and if it doesn't, there's nobody to blame but me. And I accept that going in. My eyes are wide open.

Early reaction to the film has been lukewarm, though Spacey earned praise for his warm, energetic performance and spirited vocals.

Spacey had performed in musicals from his early teens into his 20s, but good singing roles had since eluded him. He said he chose to sing himself because he's generally not a fan of lip-synched performances, and relying on his own voice allowed him to expand on the music without being tied to Darin's original vocal tracks.

"This wasn't about an actor's ego, wanting to get my rocks off by singing in a movie. This was about trying to do something that would honor him as an entertainer," Spacey said. "This is all about Bobby. It's about trying to reintroduce people to his catalog and hoping that this film will ignite a kind of recognition of his body of work that's just been denied too long."

'Beyond the Sea" traces Darin's cloistered childhood. when he was afflicted with rheumatic fever, through his varied recording and acting career, which culminated in an Academy Award nomination for his role in 1963's "Cap-

"Beyond the Sea" for 12 years. Studios were unwilling to finance a film about a comparatively forgotten singer who died in 1973 at 37 after open-heart surgery.

"Every door slammed in my face," said Spacey, who eventually found overseas financing. "Politely, but every door slammed in my face."

Darin's family also had objections, first, to the film itself. econd, to the thought that anyone's voice but Darin's would be used for the soundtrack. Spacey gradually won over Darin's reluctant loved ones, including manager and pal Steve Blauner, played by John Goodman, and son Dodd from his marriage to teen idol Sandra Dee, played by Kate Bosworth.

The film also co-stars Brenda Blethyn as Darin's mother, Caroline Aaron as his sister and Bob Hoskins as his brother-in-law.

Hoskins recalls his initial skepticism when he met with Spacey over dinner to discuss the film.

"He said, 'I'm going to direct it, I'm going to act in it, and I'm going to sing the songs, and I'm doing the dancing. 'Yeah, you are, are you?' "Hoskins said. "And he said, 'Really, I am.' Well, I thought, if anybody's going to stick their neck out that far. I'm going with them

Spacey has stuck his neck out before. After a 44 If this film works, it's because of the successful early career on stage, Spacey broke into movies but found vast talents of a great number of people, and if it doesn't, there's nobody to blame but me. 17 Kevin Spacev

himself typecast as sleazes or outright monsters, including the serial kill-er of "Seven" and a motor-mouthed low-life "The Usual Suspects," for which he won the supporting-actor Oscar.

Consciously trying to reinvent himself, Spacey bulled his way to more varied roles with "L.A. Confidential." "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," "The Negotiator,"

"L.A. Confidential" and "American Beauty," for which he won the best-actor Oscar as an acerbically funny husband in a midlife crisis For the foreseeable future, though, Spacev plans to stick

largely to the stage. T'm going to be a theater rat for a while," Spacey said.

"I'll probably do less movies than plays for the next five, six, seven, eight years."

Spacey took over this year as artistic director of London's Old Vic theater and plans to star in two plays there in 2005: Dennis McIntyre's "National Anthems" and "The Philadelphia Story," the basis for the classic film comedy starring Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart. Spacey will play Grant's role as a conniving ex-husband.

Spacev shrugs off his artistic misfires, including his recent string of film flops, saving he wants to keep his career focus on the long haul.

"There were a lot of years when people were really crapping on Paul Simon. Whatever happened to Paul Simon? He used to be good," Spacey said. "Then 'Graceland' came out, and everybody was in love with Paul Simon again.

Horoscope

Mercury dusts off his hands and says, "Enough!" This process of rehashing and reviewing is getting old already! Yes, looking back has a purpose, but it's **Holiday Mathis** about time we figured out what to do with now. It will

take about three weeks for Mercury to come complete ly out of the shadow, and this creates the illusion of

time stretching. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 20). Celebrate your power this year - others take note and give you even more reasons to rejoice. Next month is key in raising your financial status Ask for money due you or a deserved raise. Your sex appeal is unmistakable this year, and singles

You could wind up with a Scorpio or ARIES (March 21-April 19). Put in the work required, and you'll shine. Talent and willpower are

have hot dates through the spring.

Cancer

inextricably woven together. There are no outstanding talents who are not also outstandingly disciplined when it comes to honing their craft TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You'll be blessed - and then blessed again and again and ... too

much of a good thing can be bad for you, making you feel overwhelmed. Be judicious, and know when to pass your bounty on to the next person

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Because of your contagious zest for life, you're the one who can help that person with the defeatist "been

there, done that" attitude. It's lucky to extend an invite and then take only "ves" for an answer CANCER (June 22-July 22). Growth is the word of the day. Think

of everything as alive - thoughts are alive, energy is alive, and love is alive. What's alive requires breath and food. Feed and oxygenate your

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22), Karma zings back in fast motion - you'd have to try hard not to get the mes-

relationship with the world

sage. So now you know what you are giving by looking hard and long at what has come back at you.

Make adjustments accordingly VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You're holding out for the one (job. person, dress sale), and it's worth the wait. Except the word "wait" is so passive, implying you're twiddling your thumbs until the perfect situation arrives which of course vou're not.

LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). Unconsciously, you're looking for ways to reward yourself for work that feels, at the present time, largely unrewarded. While you're

at it, you may as well go for big rewards instead of piddly ones like

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

The brimming excitement of the season is getting to you - you're all swept up and ready to give, give, give. Or should I say, spend, spend, spend? You can do the first without overdoing the latter

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Someone seems to have cast a spell on you, as you're moving through the day in an enchanted haze. Then again, this seeing reality through a magical fog is kind of nice.

Enjoy it while it lasts CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Some people resent being stuck between a rock and a hard place, but you wisely realize that this usually means there's nowhere to go but up! Ask for a lifeline, and helicopter your way out of a tough situation

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Nothing breaks up monotony like the warm feelings you get around good, solid people. Sensational news on the social front is featured - when friends have something to celebrate, you have do, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Life is like a jazz trio. When you're

given the opportunity to solo, play your heart out! A shameless self-promoter has something to teach you. Take this lesson all the way to the

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



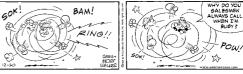














Beetle Bailey



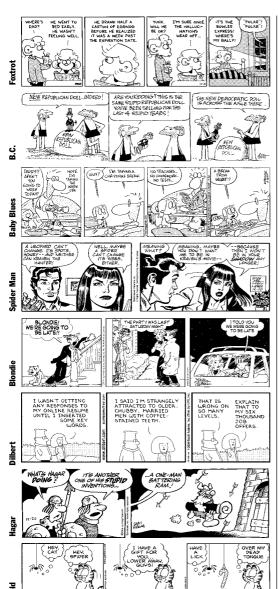












Fugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12		1	1		13				14	ı		T
15		T	T		16			17		T		l
18				19			20			T		t
			21	T		22		23	T	T		
24	25	26					27		28	Т	29	30
31	T	T		32			T	33		34	T	t
35		T	36		37				38		Г	l
		39		40	П	41	T					
42	43			T	44		45			46	47	48
49						50			51			T
52					53	Г	t		54			T
55	+	+	+	П	56	+	+		57	+	+	+

Across

- 1 Counterfeit 5 Bankroll
- 8 Spill the beans 12 South American
 - city
- 13 Freudian concept 14 Anger 15 Somewhere out
- there 16 Home
- 18 Handgun 20 Deflate, in a
- sense 21 Play area
- 23 People in general
- 24 Home 28 Pleasant
- 31 Computer button
- 32 Non-native Hawaijan
- 34 Year-end beverage
- 35 Campus bigwig
- 37 Home
- 39 Brylcreem quantity
- 41 Jodie Foster
- movie 42 Vinegary
- 45 Proverbs
- preceders
- **49** Home
- 51 Carriage
- 52 Hodgepodge
- 53 Pitch
- 54 Largest of the
- seven
- 55 Ollie's pal

JPM DAVES 12-20

- 57 Crooned
- 56 Dash lengths

Down 1 Rebuff a masher arrangement 4 Constant sufferer

5 Literate and

informed

7 Extinct hird

8 Londoner or

Liverpudlian

11 Harry's first lady

19 Solemn pledge

22 Overwhelm

24 Proof abbr.

9 Pasta variety

(Var)

10 Kelp, e.g.

17 Fellow

25 Exploit

6 Past

- 27 Unexpected 2 Stereo
- hits 29 Anti 3 Latin 101 word
 - 30 34-Across

26 Collegiate

community

- ingredient
- 33 Right angles 36 Country
- 38 Peruvian
- pack 40 Pen name
- 42 Commotions
- 43 Future stallion
- 44 Give as an example
- 46 Sax-playing Simpson
- 47 Chow -
- 48 Unforeseen
- hangup
- 50 Felon's flight

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Allswei to i levious i uzzie												
	F	L	υ	1	D		F	Е	Ε	D	М	Е
F	R	Ε	s	С	0		Α	G	R	Ε	Ε	D
C	A	S	Н	Ε	W		С	R	Ε	Α	S	Ε
C	U	Т	Ε		z	0	Т	Е		D	Α	И
			R	-	L	┙		Т	Α	В		
E	S	Q		О	0	D	Α		┙	ш	Α	D
F	0	U	G	Ι	Α	Z	۵	R	Ε	Α	D	Υ
Α	L	Α	Ν		О	-	٧	Е		Т	0	Е
		G	U	М		C	-	Т	Υ			
Α	D	М		Α	s	K	s		Ε	М	1	Т
Е	E	Т	R	υ	Т		0	R	Ν	Α	Т	Ε
Α	R	R	Ī	٧	Ε		R	Α	Т	Т	Ε	D
	E	Ε	Р	Е	Ν		s	Ρ	Α	s	М	
_		_				-						

12-20 CRYPTOOUIP MNRUATZ'T A O E O S

VEPXCEZXCS. SXG MXGVF

OCXPEPVS TES ZNRCR A T

MXUOXGQF AQZRCRTZ. nip: IF THERE'S Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT MOTHER TO FIND OUT, DO YOU SAY "MOM'S THE WORD"? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals N

Tupperware parties too costly

Dear Abby: I would like to share my pet peeve with you. It's being invited to "sales parties" for kitchenware, beauty products, etc. I can't afford to spend money at these so-called parties because I have three children to feed

I would prefer not to disclose my financial situation to every person who issues these invitations which arrive some times on a weekly basis. I have tried to tell friends that I am busy that night, and they either find out that I really don't have plans or try to sign me up for an "outside order have shared with a few friends that I am on a strict budget, and they reply with "just come and don't buy anything."

That's not a workable solution, because the consultants see the word "no" as a challenge and won't take "no" for an answer. Also, it's intimidating to see everyone else pull out their checkbooks. How can I get unin-

cused me of looking in

her wallet when she ran

into her house to get something while I sat in

her minivan. I did not go

In fact, I never even

I swore to Gina that I

photo on the outside of her wal-

But, Annie, she is mistaken. I

had my own wallet in my lap and

sure she saw mine and thought it

I never would do anything to

- West Lafayette, Ind. Dear Indiana: A good friend

ieopardize our friendship. How can I prove to Gina that I never

doesn't assume the worst about her pals, and then accuse them

of lying when they offer a reason

touched her things?

was looking through it, sorting out my receipts and cash. I'm

didn't do anything, but

she insists she saw me looking at her driver's license

through her wallet

touched it.

Îet

was hers.

vited permanently?

— Can't Afford my Friends

in Albuquerque, N.M. Dear Can't: Real friends don't subject friends to embarrassment or use them to get special deals by promoting commercial prod-ucts. Ignore the solicitations as

you would any other. and don't feel guilty. It you're questioned, just say you weren't interest ed in buying - it's the

Dear Abby: I recently attended several soccer practices for

6-year-olds. One boy on the team, "Timmy," is so obese he can barely run. His mother screams at him from

the sidelines, giving him directions every few minutes

Sometimes the poor child "runs" in the wrong direction and scores for the opposing team. (I personally believe he suffers from ADD.) Timmy said to his mother, "I can't run!" — and he can't. His large belly and huge

thighs prevent him from running. One can see his frustration.

After the game, each player is given a paper sack of refreshments. One time, it was a choco late cupcake, a bag of chips and a cold drink. At the end of the game, after the snacks, Timmy ran to his mother. He was crying She was talking on her cell phone. She said, "Here's 50 cents - go buy a candy bar." My heart aches for this boy

- Concerned Parent, Bloomington, Ind.
Dear Concerned: Since you

can't change Timmy's mother, speak to the coach. That's the only person the boy should be listening to during a game. Per-haps the mother will take guidance from the coach regarding a healthy diet and exercise regimen for her son. Another thing you might do is provide some healthy snacks for the players after the games, and organize the other moms to do the same. Letters for this column - with vo

name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 694 Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can wr to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirlon

one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

> ZAUGE ©2004 Tribune Med UPPYP

SNODEC

URRUMM

HOLIDAYS. Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. IT

WHAT THE FAMILY DID TO THEIR' HOME FOR THE

(Answers tomorrow) Jumbles: DEMON COACH CLAUSE MISERY Answer Too many doughnuts may not be wholesome but they are - "HOLE-SOME"

Family Circus



"Is it too late to ask Santa to bring me a baby sister?"

Dear Abby

Accusation jeopardizes friendship

Dear Annie: Yester-Annie's Mailbox day, "Gina," my best friend of 27 years, ac-

ly rational to us. Since you value the friendship, the easiest way to remedy this is to apologize without admitting guilt: "Gina, I'm so sorry you thought I looked in your wallet I would never intentionally risk our friendship. You mean too much to me

able explanation. She doesn't sound complete-

Dear Annie: Re cently, our beloved mother passed away without leaving a will. During the last few years of her life, she gave most of her prized possessions to her children and grandchildren so she could watch us enjoy them

Mom also told us that her home and remaining possessions were to be left to her youngest son, who lived with her for the last 10 years.

Those closest to her have abided by her wishes. However, one granddaughter has called repeat edly, asking about the estate and

wanting to get her hands on the items left to my brother.

We expect there will be a long legal battle over this selfish girl actions. Now we must deal with a fight that would have shamed

and disgusted her grandmother I hope this letter serves to encourage anyone who hasn't

written a will to do so.

- Disappointed in Bakersfield, Calif.

Dear Bakersfield: Greed can be a powerful motivator, but if this niece received mementos from her grandmother equal to what other grandchildren received, there's no reason for her to believe she is entitled to more. Is there anyone who can explain to this misguided soul that she is creating a tremendous amount of ill-will for what ultimately may be very little gain? No amount of money can replace a loving

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, Iongtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox/ecomcast.net or write to: Annie's Mailbox, comcast. or write to: Annie's Mailbox, comcast. Plantier Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd, Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

MEA 12/20

"CAN 1 TRADE IN THIS TOY CAR ME LAST YEAR FOR A NEWER MODELS

Gary



Civilization-slickers



STRIPES SERVICE DIRECTORY



Merry Christmas from all

of us at US Discount Travel!

TUI

your daily quide to navigating the European Business Market

FOR INFORMATION ON GROWING YOUR BUSINESS WITH THE SERVICE DIRECTORY CONTACT SEAN ADAMS AT CIV: 06155-601203 or DSN: 349-8203

or EMAIL: adamss@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Attornevs Travel Agencies Attorney Joe Maiss BOOK ONLINE **Full Service Law firm** US & German Divorces mployment & Personal Injury email: maiss@hd-law.de

Office: Heidelberg Tel: 06221-727-9595 Guy L. Womack **Worldwide Court-Martial Defense**

www.GuyWomack.com e-mail: Guy. Womack@USA.net

Phone: (713) 224-8815 LAW OFFICES JOSEPH K. KELSO

U.S. Attorney at Law
Specializing since 1960 in U.S. Federal
mployment Law, Administrative Boards,
sonal Injury and Medical Malpractice, Tort
Claims, International Contracts and
Immigration Law
Tatic Canada Tata 1846, 600096 Frankfurt am Main
Tatic (26108) 79 75 79 Fax: (68108) 79 99 22



www.court-martial-defense.com

Law Offices David Court ne: (069) 30 10 72 Fax: (069) 30 12 68



Internet Services 600



DSL and Cell service no in Italy and Germany. DSL FLAT RATE
 SAME DAY ACTIVATION
 ALL SERVICES AND
 SUPPORT IN ENGLISH

NT RNLTACCESS

www.greennet.de

DSL Flat Rate €29.90 ‱n Unlimited Time & Volume or Internet Dial Up Connec Phone: 06731-2348

Standard Issue Meets A New Standard

estripes.osd.mil

STARS STRIPES

Weddings EURAIL Last Minute Specials - City/Group Tour Cruises & Ferry Ticke

Mo - Fr 09:00 - 18:00

Sa 09:00 - 13.00

www.us-discount-travel.com

Discounted Seats to

the States still available!

Call toll free 0800-5878359

VHY PAY MORE Call 24hr ACS now for de

069 743 090 10

Super Specials World Wide

All Airlines
Specials & Military Fares
Car Rentals
Last Minute Offers Around the World Call Christine 06202-270624

Military Travel International Over a million airfares worldwide Aschaffenburgerstr 64 • 63457 Hannu fro: 06181-906690 • e-mail: mti@mtitravel.de Cell 06181-906690 Mon - Fri: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. + Sat: 11 a.m. - 2 www.mtitravel.de

DISCOUNT FLIGHTS

Germany to/from U.S.A. - Payment Plan METICAN www.flyusave.com

ph: 0180-5007427 Travel Center

your scene?

What's

Buy Stripes this

Sunday and every Sunday to

get your scene!



Long Distance Service

On /Off Base KUWAIT Cell: Via DSN Optr:

SPAIN: PORTUGAL: TURKEY:

SMILITEE:

660



On /Off Base 20c

5.9c

7.9c

9.9c

290

Existing Customers Call for New Rate Pla For more info or secure sign up:

www.militel.net Fast, Easy Sign Up 24 hrs!

Credit Card LUS Bank Dehitl Itemized Monthly Billing!

24/7 Live Customer Support!

CALL TOLL FREE 24 HRS Germany 0-800-1826-224 800-872-252 Spain 900-961-539 US Direct 1-402-392-7513

info@militel.net Financial Services

U.S Military. Call toll free: ermany 0800yesloan Italy/Belgium 00800yesloan:

USA 1877omniusa or go to www.yesomni.com

omni

Tax Assistance

INTERGLOBAL Shipping GmbH Specialized Shipping toffrom the US & Canada Autos, Household Goods, Personal Belongings

WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY

PCS WITHOUT STRES

Ship Cars/Contai to/from USA

info@interglobalshipping.de www.interglobalshipping.de Tel (0421) 340650 Fax (0421)340 6565

Sure, you could get your refund faster. When the IRS gets a drive-thru. File electronically with our

H&R BLOCK

Rudlf-Diesel Str 9 35394 Giessen Tel: 0641-9446698 Aschaffenburger Str 66 63457 Hanau el: 06181-574779 / 574780

7 isamstein-milesei Tel: 06371-617411

940

Call-Fax-Email for IMMEDIATE SERVICE \$700 - \$15,000

USLOANS

For E-Z Online Service, Visit Our Website at WWW.USLoans.cc Tel. (049) 06371-17222 or 917891-Fax 2633

E-Mail: USLoansran Toll Free Tel. 0800-USLOANS (875-6267) Hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1800- Open ALL Holiday: screecesmen Leading American Military Lenders

Standard Issue Meets A New Standard

estripes.osd.mil

Read Stripes online at

www.stripes.com

STARS STRIPES.

STRIPES CLASSIFIED

advertise with STRIPES CLASSIFIED PLACE A PRIVATE PARTY AD IN FOUR SIMPLE STEPS +

- 1. Write an ad (be sure to include the item, price/or best offer (OBO) and phone number).
- 2. Select a 4, 7, or 30 day package.
- 3. Choose a category from the index running most days in Stars & Stripes Classified.
- 4. Decide which day you would like your ad to begin running, and submit with the appropriate payment on or before the deadline listed below. *

MONDAY	DUE NOON THURSDAY
TUESDAY	DUE 4 PM THURSDAY
WEDNESDAY	DUE 4 PM FRIDAY
THIIDCDAY	DHE 4 PM MONDAY

	FRIDAY	DUE 4 PM TUESDAY
7	SATURDAY	DUE NOON WEDNESDAY
	SUNDAY	DUE 4 PM WEDNESDAY

PRIVATE PARTY PACKAGES

- 1. 4 lines for 4 days for \$20.00 (\$5.00 per additional line). §
- 2. 4 lines for 7 days for \$30.00 (\$7.50 per additional line). §
- 3. 4 lines for 30 days for \$55.00 (\$10.00 per additional line). §

† Private Party Rates apply only to individuals advertising personal merchandise or private property for sale, up to two major items such as a boat, motor vehicle or home. Commercial Rates apply to property and/or merchandise for rent and commercial operations. Employment Rates apply for Jobs Officerd and Job Fairs. For Commercial or Employment Rate information contact Stars & Stripes Classified. Justo surverse amu Jour rans. No Commercial or temployment nate information contact Mars & Stripes Classified.

**Payment is required in advance in order to publish ads. Acceptable forms of payment include: Visa.

MasterCard, Check or Money Order. Please do not send cash. If an aid is not received by the designated deadline, it will begin running the next acalible day, Please allow one extra day for all Federal holidays.

§ Classified ad lines include approximately 25 characters (this includes spaces) per line.

... it's a SNAP

CONTACT STRIPES TO PLACE AN AD 24 hour e-mail 8 fax service (Phone Service 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.) 24 hour e-mail 8 fax service (Phone Service 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.) 25 p.m.) 25 p.m. 25 p.m.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING COUPON ☐ 4 lines/4 days @ \$20 ☐ 4 lines/7 days @ \$30 ☐ 4 lines/30 days @ \$55

Visa/MC # (circle one): _ Run Date(s):

Send Payment to: APO Address European Stars & Stripes Classified Advertising Department Unit 29480, APO AE 09211

International Address European Stars & Stripes ATTN: Classified Advertising Postfach 1330, 64345 Griesheim

Phone #:

affect the integral value of the as, i.e.k., misspelled words; wrong category (case-by-case); CAPS, bold, italicized incorrectly; it will be corrected additional day. Stars & Stripes reserves the right to edit and return any and all ads considered inappropriate for publishing. All classified adverrrected, but no makegood will be given. In I advertisements are non-refundable.



STRETCH your dollars with

Honda Civic '93, US spec, ac cc, pw, pwr doors, newer motor \$2000, call 0178-7155336 xclusive coupons and discounts!

pre-screened and rated for APO/FPO service & shipping visit us at

COHOLICS ANONYM Europe for assistance 49(0)1803-AAHELP

FIND 1000s of shops Shipping to APOPO w.APOFPOShipping



Autos for Sale - Italy

Buses/Vans/RVs 158

Honda Civic LX '89, 1.5i, grey, 146k mi, 1 owner, \$ 2500 'obb, call 0611-719608 Porsche 944S2 '91, grand-prix white, full-load, per, cond. racing-brk, \$10500 obo, call 0.61'81' 3.0.49.580 or 0171-3801948 Renault Espace '00 Grand, 3.0l, auto, ač, navi, 32K mil, 6 capt chair, 6/cd wrm, alu whi keyless ent, euro 14K , call 09901-903496 360

CARS&CARS Military Sales Italy



Come see us! Turn left at the front gate. enza. Italy Tel. 0444-510306 Fax. 0444-315512 carscars2001@yahoo.it

dit, No Broblem: WE FINANCE!
ining pour LES when you come to deal! US SPECS TAX FREE

Automotive

Email: rheinmilitaryhq@t-online.de Tel.: (0931) 2008480 (09721) 675 27 35 / (09721) 803013

Car Sales

www.militarycarsales.org









144

Travel

871

STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Pekingese Puppies, AKC blood-lines, champion mother, calli 0031-485331145

Pure breed Pug puppy and French Bull Dog puppies and Shift puppies with all shots Apartment Unfurn 856

Apartment Furn 860 Frankfurt, 120sq, fully furn, 4Bd, 2Ba, Kit, Din, Jacuzzi, By Shop Areas, Zoo, Train&Bus, #0172-6705333, Euro1290

penthouse, Sat TV, both AFN and ASTRA rec, big terrace, 700eur ex. gas & elec. call Shiela 06181-15593 Hanua area

Apartment Furn 860 Temporary lodging, eff apa ment, fully furn, near Leight Bks, Wuerzburg, Avail No Call anytime 0173-3235091

Hotel Forsthaus Oberau 8 km Nth of Garmisch Hot tub/sauna 33eur PP, DBL occp, free brkfst dogs welcome. 08824-9120 VIDEO STORE INVENTORY FOR SALE 8000+ TITLES & RACKS CALI

Video Rental and

Standard Issue Meets A New Standard

estripes.osd.mil

Jobs Offered

Religious Activities

STARS STRIPES.

Sony Military Sales

independent and dependable account representatives to work in the following stores: Lakenheath, Aviano, Vicenza, Bitburg, Spangdahlem & Mannheim.

> Weekend work is expected and a valid ID card is required

Interested parties should email a resume to: sonyjob@eps-marketing.com

Employment Opportunities

JOIN THE STARSICASTRIPES

TEAM TODAY

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Salary: \$31,500- \$35,000 Opening: Date 25-Jun-2004 Cutoff Date: N/A Closing Date: Until Filled

REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER

3 VACANCIES Salary: \$32,000-\$38,000 Opening Date: 09 NOV 0-Cutoff Date: N/A Closing Date: Until Filled

OFFSET PRINT WORKER

LABORER

http://www.chrma.hqusareu jobs@mail.estripes.cod.mil European Stars & Stripes, NAF Personnel Office Unit 29480, APO AE, 09211

+49 (0) 6155-601238 (Civilian) 349-8238 (DSN) European Stars & Stripes, Grieshein Flughafenstrasse Geb. 4319, Grieshe STARS AND STRIPES IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Civilian: 011 +49 (0)-6155-601433/207 DSN: 349-8433/207

What's your scene?



TRAVEL

MUSIC

HEALTH & FITNESS







tripes this Sunday and every Sunday to get your scene!



Harres Sport Center • St. Leon-Rot, Germany (near Heidelberg) For Registration Information: Telephone: 06221-603209

E-mail: realwomensconference@hotmail.com • website: www.jwoc.de For hotel reservations: Holiday Inn • Walldorf • Telephone: 06227-36560

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Monday

AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.-Golf: Three Tour nallenge (dld). AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.-College basketball: North Carolina at Virginia Tech (did), AFN-Sports, 3:30 p.m.-College basketball: Florida St. at Maryland. AFN-Sports Florida St. at Maryland.

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.-College basketball:
North Carolina St. at Washington.

Tuesday AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.—Bowling: PBA Or-inge County Classic (dld). AFN-Atlantic and Radio, 3 a.m.—NFL: New

England at Miami. AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—NBA: Phoenix at Denver.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball:
Princeton at Temple (did).

AFN-Pacific, 11 a.m.—NFL: New England at
Miami (did).

AFN-Sports, noon—NBA: Phoenix at Den-

ports, noon—NBA: Phoenix at Dener (did). **AFN-Sports, 3:30 p.m.**—NBA: Memphis at .A. Lakers (did). **AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.**—NFL: New England at diami (did).

All Times Central European Time; did indi-cates delayed broadcast. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

Saturday
1. Illinois (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Valparaiso, Sunday. 2. Kansas (7-0) beat South Carolina 64-60 7. Kinds (76) best South Carolina 64-00, Mort vs. Wiscond-Millouder, Wight-Millouder, Wight-Millouder, Wight-Millouder, Wight-Millouder, Wight-Millouder, Wight-Millouder, Wight-Millouder, Wight-Millouder, William (1997) and the state of th

11. Connecticut (4-1) did not play. Next: vs. Ricc. Sunday.
Ricc. Sunday.
Next: vs. Text vol. 11. State (4-1) did not play.
Next: vs. 11. Louisville (5-2) lost to No. 9 Kentucky
60-58. Next: vs. 10/PUI, Tuesday.
14. Texas (7-2) lost to No. 9 Wake- Forest
80-80. Art 20na (7-2) lost with the control of the

17. Alabama (9-1) beat Tennessee St. 87-79. Next: vs. Tex. A&M-Corp. Christi, Wednesday. 18. Washington (7-1) did not play. Next: vs.

Next: vs. 1ex. A&M-Corp. Christi, Weenlesday. No. 12 North Carolina State, Sunday. vs. No. 12 North Carolina State, Sunday. vs. 19. George Washington (7-1) Deal Towson S-69. Next; at Florida Inter, Thursday, 20. Mississippi State (82) Deast Xavier 21. Michigan State (62) Deat Delaware State 63-45. Next: vs. UCLA, Tuesday. 22. Gonzaga (9-1) beat No. 3 Georgia Tech S-73. Next: vs. Ewashington, Tuesday. Florida State, Sunday.

23. Maryland (b-2) uiti nov page.

24. Virginia (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Loyola Marymount, Thursday.
25. Cincinnati (7-0) beat Northwestern
State 81-65. Next: vs. Jackson State, Monday.

a men's scores

EAST
Albany, N.Y. 71, Hartford 59
Alderson-Broaddus 91, Pitt. Johnstown 75
Allegheny 79, Thiel 66
Bryant 88, NJ. Tech 47
Bucknell 59, Cornell 44
Buffalo 69. Buffalo 69, Canisius 65 Cabrini 91, Washington, Md. 80 Calgate 101, Hobart 85 Elizabethtown 72, Eastern 69 George Washington 85, Towson 69 George Washington 65, 10 Gettysburg 75, Navy 69 Harvard 67, Lehigh 56 LeMovne 74, Union, N.Y. 55 LeMoyne 74, Unión, N.Y. 55 Lycoming 88, Elmira 51, 42 Pittsburgh 73, Coppin St. 58 St. Francis, Pa. 70, Slippery Rock 44 St. Peter's 94, Fairleigh Dickinson 91 St. Rose 72, Eckerd 60 Syracuse 74, Drexel 54 UMBC 84, Villa Julie 58 West Virginia 77, James Madison 48 William Paterson 61, Merchant Marine 50

Alabama 87, Tennessee St. 79 Alice Lloyd 67, Berea 64 Alice Lloyd 67, Berea 64 Appalachian 51, 98, Milligan 67 Apprentice 85, W. Virginia 52, 84 Armstrong Atlantic 68, Savannah Art 66 Berea 63, III. Sportingfield of 43 Catawba 76, 52, Laugustine 471, OT Catawba 76, 52, Laugustine 471, OT Chattanooga 75, Belmont 67 Duke 78, Oklahoma 67 E. Mennonite 89, Ferrum 82 Elizabeth City 51, 81, Columbia Union 70 Furman 110, Greensboro 42 Harding 84, Montevallo 77 High Point 78, Mount St. Mary's, Md. 61 on St. 65, Tougaloo 52 saw 71, Tusculum 62 Jackson St. 65, Tougaloo 52 Kennesaw TJ, Tusculum 62 Kentucky 60, Louisville 58 Kentucky Wesleyan 91, Glenville St. 73 Lenoir-Rhyne 82, S.C.-Aiken 60 Lipscomb 103, Rust 82 Livingstone 74, N.C.-Pembroke 64 Longwood 75, Howard 69 gstone 75, Howard 69 gwood 75, Howard 69 siana Tech 81, McNeese St. 63 nphis 71, Austin Peay 66 Memphis 71, Austin Peay 66 Miami 81, Stetson 50 Mississippi 84, Louislana-Monroe 58 Mississippi 84, Louislana-Monroe 58 Mississippi 84, Louislana-Monroe 18 Mississippi 84, Louislana 18 Missi Southern Miss. 88, LSU 84, OT Stephen F.Austin 73, Centenary 70 Tulane 74, Savannah St. 55 UNC-Greensboro 74, Liberty 69 Va. Commonwealth 63, La Salle 52 Vanderbilt 78, TCU 55 Vanderbilt 78, TCU 55 W. Kentucky 70, Marshall 54 Wake Forest 89, Texas 88 West Georgia 108, Wingate 91 Wofford 84, Charleston South MIDWEST ern 65

Wofford and MIDWEST
Arizona 48, Marquette 43
Aurora 90, Webster 79
Baldwin-Wallace 72, Capital 55
Ball St. 65, Indiana St. 59
Bellevue 93, Northwestern, Jowa 60
Benedictine.lll. 73, North Park 50
Bluffton 78, Hiram 66
Bu Benedictine.III. 73, North Park 50 Bluffton 78, Hiram 66 Bradley 76, Pepperdine 58 Buffalo St. 80, Marian, Wis. 68 Butler 73, Ind. -Pur. Ft. Wayne 39 Carroll, Wis. 82, Elmhurst 58 Cedarville 80, Indiana Wesleyan 55 Cent. Missouri 89, Ashland 52 Cent. Missouri 89, Asmanu: Central 119, Mac Murray 92 Chicago 89, Denison 64 Coe 78, St. John's, Minn. 60 Concordia, St.P. 95, Wis.-Riv er Falls 83 concordia, S.L.P. 95, Wis.-River Fa Cornerstone 116, Mary Grove 86 Dakota St. 67, S. Dakota Tech 61 Dayton 62, Saint Louis 54 DePaul 80, Ill.-Chicago 62 Detroit 62, Gannon 49

Detroit 62, Gannon 49 E. Michigan 60, N. Dakota St. 58 Emporia St. 82, Tabor 65 Franklin 81, Millikin 67 Hillsdale 67, St. Francis, III. 58 Illinois St. 73, Loyola of Chicago 67 Illinois Wesieyan 93, Beloit 53 Indiana Tech 95, Manchester 70 Iowa 88, W. Garolina 75 iowa 88, W. Carolina 75 John Carroll 71, Ohio Northern 64 Kansas 64, South Carolina 60 Kansas St. 73, Texas-San Antonio 69 Lawrence 52, Wis.-Oshkosh 46 Loras 70, Northland 47 Malona 120, Ohio Powi Loras 70, Northland 47 Malone 120, Ohio Dominican 114, OT Marian, Ind. 75, Calumet-St. Joseph's 44 Mary 59, Valley City St. 55 Maryville, Mo. 86, Monmouth, Ill. 53

Maryville, Mc, 86, Monmouth, III. 53 Mayville St. 73, Jamestown 57 Mercyhurst 75, Saginaw Valley St. 58 Michigan St. 63, Delaware St. 45 Michigan Tech 69, S. Dakota St. 60 Mississippi St. 80, Xavier 74 Mount St. Joseph 88, UC-Clermont 76 Muskingum 66, Heidelberg 62 N. Michigan 69, St. Norbert 67 Nebrasika 71, N. Carolina A&T 49 North Central 79, Kalamazoo 62 North Dakota 77, Minn.-Crooksto Northern St., S.D. 89, Midland Lui Northwd, Mich. 75, Lewis 65

Northern J. S., J. S., Millings Uniterior of Section 13 44 August 14 August

Nolline Christian 91, Grace 66
Arkansas 102, Prairie View 90
Baylor 75, Southern U, 62
Houston 68, SE Louisiana 61
Incarnate Word 82, SE Oklahoma 54
Lamar 110, Wiley 64
Kontury 82, Louisiana College 65
S. Nazarene 99, Southwestern, Kan, 76
Texas A&M-Kingsville 69, Panhandie St. 57

Texas Lutheran 60, Texas-Dallas 52 Texas-Lutheran 60, Texas-Dallas 52 Texas-Tyler 98, Mary Hardin-Baylor 95 UTEP 79, New Mexico St. 61 Wichita St. 71, Tulsa 66

Wichita S.T. Troubus G. U. FAR WEST BYU-Hawaii 90, St. Thowas J. FAR WEST BYU-Hawaii 90, St. Thowas Aguinas 70. Cent. Arkansas Si, Cent. Washington 61 Colorado 88, Colorado St. Bonever 80, E. Washington 61 Gorzaga 85, Georgia Tech 70 June 90, E. Washington 61 Gorzaga 85, Georgia Tech 70 June 90, E. Washington 61 Gorzaga 85, Georgia Tech 70 June 90, E. Washington 61 Gorzaga 85, Georgia Tech 70 June 90, E. S. Washington 61 Gorzaga 85, Georgia 76, Regis 77, Fennésses 50 Gklabona 51, 78, UNLV 67 Gregon 51, 50, palicie 45, 70 Georgia 75, Palicie 45, 70 Georgia Oregon 83, Fresno St. 82 Oregon St. 90, Boise St. 79 Portland St. 79, Tenn.-Martin 66 S. Utah 82, Idaho 53 San Diego 65, N. Arizona 56 San Francisco 67, Pacific 64 Santa Clara 87, CSU-Chico 74 Southern Cal 81, W. Michigan 74 Stanford 72, UC Davis 62 UC Santa Barbara 55, Montana 46

UC Santa Barbara 55, Montana 46 UCLA 81, Michigan 79 Utah 5t. 84, BYÜ 62 Utah Valley St. 72, Cleveland St. 65 W. Baptist 94, S. Oregon 67 Washington St. 55, Portland 54 Weber St. 85, Elon 57

TOURNAMENT
Dodge Holiday Classic
Championship
Nevada 83, E. Illinois 57
Third Place
- - - - 71 Florida Atlantic 57 Nevada 83, E. III...
Idaho St. 71, Florida Atlantic 6:
Holland Sentinel Commun
Championship

Wis-Whitewater 68, Hope and Pittsburg St. 89, E. New Mexico 69, Spot Cotty Shootout Championship Henderson St. 87, T. Uskepe 5, Missouri-Rolla Second Round Missouri-Rolla Suner & Classic Second Round Notre Dame Coll. 91, Madonna Tiffin 136, Penn St.-Beaver 64

AP Women's Top 25 fared

1. ISU (10-0) beat SW Missouri St. 66-54.
Next at US anda Barbara, Tuesday,
2. Stanford (8-0) beat Missouri 71-55. Nextat No. 9 Tennessee, Tuesday,
3. Duke (10-1) beat No. 20 Purdue 66-48.
Next at Ball State, Monday,
Texas-Arlington, Tuesday,
Fexas-Arlington, Tuesday,
Foxort, Carolina 20 N. Via.

xas-Arlington, Tuesday. 5. North Carolina (8-1) did not play. Next: 6. Georgia St. at Myrtle Beach, S.C., Sunday. 5. Baylor (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Flori-

"Ne Easylor (E.)" (all rink play, Next-vs. Florida, Sunday, most of the Sunday, most of the Sunday, so that Marquette, Sunday, lead on play, Next: at Marquette, Sunday, lead on play, Next: at Sunday, so the Sunday, s

Sunday, 17. Vanderbilt (7-1) did not play, Next: vs. BYU at Malibu, Calift, Monday. 18. Maryland (7-1) did not play, Next: vs. Coppin State, Monday. 13. Houston (9-1) did not play. Next: at Long Beach State, Monday. 20. Purdue (6-5) lost to No. 3 Duke 66-48. 21. DePaul (7-2) did not play, Next: at St. Perest (19-64).

21. DePaur (1-2) un not piay, next. as 31-re-22. Butgers (6-2) beat Clemson 66-51. Next-vs, No. 9 Tennessee, Wednesday, Dec. 29. 23. Arizona State (7-2) lost to New Mexico 61-45. Next. vs. No. 6 Connecticut, Tuesday, Next. vs. No. 6 Connecticut, Tuesday, 25. Kansas State (6-2) beat Alabama 71-52. Next. at Villanova, Tuesday, Dec. 28.

Saturday's women's scores

vling Green 80, St. Francis, Pa. 74 Bowling Green 80, St. Francis, Pa. 7 Cansius St. Burfalo 65 Drexel 67, UMBC 53 Lehigh 82, Binghamton 79, OT Marie 69, Michigan 61, Misericovila 71, Susquendann 88 Misericovila 71, Susquendann 88 Pace 61, Dominican, NY, 45, Princeton 47, New Orlean 36 Rider 70, Mount St. Mary's, Md. 57 Rowan 84, Wildener 69 Rutgers 66, Clemson 55 Seton Hall 64, Miami (Ohio) 58, OT

Indiana St. 96, William & Mary 77
Jacksonville GS, Navy 59
Johnson C. Smith 96, Columbia Union 34
Kentucky 90, UAB 60
Libetry 84, Norfolk St. 56
Lusislana-Lafayette 90, Sam Houston St. 72
Middle Tennessee 69, South Carolina 56
Montevallo SZ, Agnes Scott 31
N.C. State 76, N. Carolina A&T 29
N.C.-Wilmington 57, East Carolina 56

MIDWEST Albion 84, Hope 72 Belmont 66, Ind.-Pur.-Ft. Wayne 48 Black Hills St. 74, Si Tanka-Huron 65

Brudley 17, Jackson St. 69 by St. 62 Christian 17, Jackson St. 69 by St. 62 Christian 17, Jackson St. 60 by St. 62 Christian 17, Jackson St. 62 Christian 17, Jackson St. 62 by St. 62 by

Notre Durne, Ohlio Se, Wooster Ses Ottrebeiri SI, Montus Linjon Tis Park 64, SI, Mary, Man. 62. Garler GS Shawere ST, Gold Mallor 48 South Dakoda Ta, Northern SL, SD. 61 Shawere ST, Gold Mallor 48 South Dakoda Ta, Northern SL, SD. 61 Shawere ST, Gold Mallor 48 South Dakoda Ta, Northern SL, SD. 61 Shawere ST, South Clark GS, Shawere ST, Shawere ST, Shawere ST, Shawere ST, Shawere CW, St. Shawere ST, Shawere ST,

ephen F.Austin oo, 1000-arleton St. 67, Ark.-Monticell exas Lutheran 66, Texas-Dall FAR WEST

BYU 76, Southern Cal 73 Colorado 45, Pacific 42 E. Washington 54, Washington St. 53 Gonzaga 70, Idaho 53 Hawali 68, Wake Forest 64, OT Idaho St. 73, St. Martin's 58 idaho St. 73, St. Martin's St. Unifield 72, Gascade 43, Humboldt St. 45 Montana 54, Billings 77, DS. 57 Montana 54, Billings 78, B

Diego St. 69, Cal St.-rullers 56, Loyola Marymount 33 aptist 79, S. Oregon 62 TOURNAMENT

W. Bagibri 75, S. Oregon 82

Hold W. Bagibri 75, S. Oregon 82

Hold W. Bagibri 75, S. Oregon 82

Hold W. Bagibri 75, S. Oregon 82

Washington 5, British 75, S. Oregon 83

Washington 5, British 75, S. Oregon 83

Washington 5, British 80, S. Oregon 83

Washington 5, British 80, S. Oregon 83

Washington 5, British 80, S. Oregon 83

Washington 6, British 80, S. Oregon 83

Washington 6, British 80, S. Oregon 83

Washington 7, British 80, Dipo Dominican 65

Sec City Shootout

Homodesson 517, Al-Anthytikille 50

Second Round
Henderson St. 72, Ala.-Huntsville 5
St. Louis Rotary Classic
Championship
Alma 78, Mount St. Joseph 65
Wells Fargo Classic
First Round

Denver 64, Tenn.-Martin 41 SMU 66, Texas-San Antonio 46

College football

Bowl glance

Bowl glance
Tuesday, Dec. 14
New Orleans Bowl
hern Microsoft State State
Tuesday, Dec. 21
Tuesday, Dec. 22
Champs Sports Bowl
rigia Tech (6-7) as, Sports Bowl
rigia Tech (6-7) as, Sports Bowl
To MAAC Bowl
To MAAC

5-5) vs. Marshall (Las Vegas Bowl Payout: \$575,000 -5) vs. UCLA (6-5) Friday, Dec. 24 Hawaii Bowl At Honolulu

At Honolulu Payout: \$750,000 UAB (7-4) vs. Hawaii (7-5) Monday, Dec. 27

At Boles, Idaho Fresno State (23) ut Virgina (6-2) Toledo (6-3) peyvott 172/2009. Toledo (9-3) peyvott 172/2009. At State (10-2) peyvott 172/2009. Oregon State (10-2) peyvott 172/2009. Oregon State (10-2) peyvott 172/2009. At State (10-2) peyvo Payout 5.2-be unamassed (7-4) Philo State (7-4) Childhomy State (7-4) Centinental Tree Bowl Centinental Centinen Payout: \$1.6 million te (8-3) vs. West Vir Capital One Bowl Capital One Bowr At Orlando, Fla. Payout: \$5.187 million !) vs. LSU (9-2) Rose Bowl At Pasadena, Calif. Payout: \$14.5 million 1 (9-2) vs. Texas (10-1) Fiesta Bowl

At Tempe, Ariz,

At Tempe, Ariz,

Payout \$11-14 million

Utah (11-0) vs. Pittsburgh (6-3)

Sugar Bowl

At New Orleans

At New Orleans

Aubur (12-0) vs. Virginia ricch (10-2)

To Tange Bowl

At Milami

At Milami

Southern Cal (12-0) vs. Oklahoma (12-0)

Southern Cal (12-0) vs. Oklahoma (12-0) Skiing

Men's giant slalom results

At Gran Riga Course
 Alta Badia, Italy
 Ment times in Parenthees)
 Thomas Grandi, Canada, 2:34.23
 (1:15.11:19.12)
 Benjamin Raich, Austria, 2:34.80 Benjamin Raich, Austria, 2:34.80
 1:18.99).
 Didler Cuche, Switzerland, 2:35.14
 1:15.17-1:19.97).

13. Diller Guche, Switzerland, 235.14
13. Diller Guche, Switzerland, 235.14
13.54. 13. Maier, Austria, 235.14
13.54. 13. Maier, Austria, 235.12
13. Bode Miller (Junish States, 78 points, 18. Diller)
14. Bode Miller (Junish States, 78 points, 18. Denimann Rajch, Austria, 456.
15. Benjamin Rajch, Austria, 456.
16. Bode Miller (Junish States, 78 points, 18. Denimann Rajch, Austria, 456.
16. Bode Miller (Junish States, 78 points, 18. Denimann, 18. De

Lasse Kjus, Norway, 180.
 Benjamin Raich, Austria, 163.

Deals

Saturday's transactions

Saturday's transactions
BASEBALL
BASEBALL
MAKAND Atmerican Leagued LIP Mark
Midder to St. Louis for HiP Dain Haren RIP
Kiko Calero and C baric Baston.
Rational Basketball Association
Carvallers—Suspended G
End Show one game without part is side
First Show one game without part is side
Ing a Dec. 16 game against Debroit.
MAIN WANKE BUCKS—Signed G
Edde

PHOENIX SUNS—Activated F Jackson Vro-nan from the injured list. Waived G Yuta

ian from the injured has been abuse.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CINCINATI BENGALS—Placed C Rich Bra ham on injured reserve. Signed RB Quincy Wilson to a three-year contract.

DENVER BRONCOS—Signed DT Demetrin Veal. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Placed CB Ty-

TANK MCNAMARA

CHECKING CIBC FINANCIAL NEWS. "ROUPE LOSES
MISSTERCARD DEAL TEEP TO PLANSALIT OF HIS CAREER
PLOME RUN RECORD." OUT HE SEMI PUTINES
MISSEST, BROKET'S TOSETH HAVE RUN SALL DOWN
WEEK. ""AWARES STILL WANT TO REPORT HE
482 MILLOUSTHIN OWN UNSON SAMS!".

Donald Fehr,
executive director

INSIDE THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS ASSN.



Heidelberg takes both titles in K-town hoop tournament

BY RUSTY BRYAN

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Heidelberg's men and women swept the titles in the 24th annual Kaiserslautern Christmas Tournament on Sunday.

Heidelberg's Generals defeated Ramstein 70-68 in the final of the men's event; the Lady Generals turned back Kaiserslautern 66-61 to complete an unbeaten run through the tournament.

Heidelberg men 70, Ramstein 68: Former Schweinfurt star Terrance Flemon disrupted Ramstein's inbounds play with nine seconds remaining to preserve the victory.

After Heidelberg's Troy Adams missed the front end of a one-and-one with 12 seconds left, Ramstein's Germichael Kelley attempted to push the rebound down the floor. But Flemon cut him off in Heidelberg's end and forced Kelley to call a timeout.

"I told the team I didn't want Ramstein to be inbounding the ball towards the basket," said Heidelberg coach Bobby Seaberry, whose team lost to Ramstein 73-72 in Sunday's first game. "I wanted them to bring the ball backward, to have to go as many feet as possible."

To ensure that, Seaberry instructed Flemon, who finished with 13 points eight rebounds, to jump up and down in front of Ramstein veteran Kenny Bean. Bean was forced to pass the ball in to Robert Batite in the Heidelberg forecourt, and the Generals cut him off as he dribbied toward the Ramstein end. With time running out, Baitste passed of the part of the control of the from nearly midcourt fell wide and short.

Adams led Heidelberg with 18 points, half of them on three-pointers. Adams scored a field goal and free throw in the final 2:30 for the decisive margin; Andre Barnes, who earlier had coached the Lady Generals to their title, added the 70th point on one of two free throws.

Craig Marcelin, the Armed Forces team mainstay who had scored 19 points in Heidelberg's 78-70 victory over Ramstein in Saturday's winners-bracket final, added 10 points for Heidelberg. Kenyatta Mack had 14

Seasons Greetings,

points, nine rebounds and a blocked shot for the Generals.

Austin Layton led the Rams with 18 points. Ramstein got 13 from Larry Sengal, 12 from Batiste and 11 from Troy Miles. But the Rams managed to sink only two field goals in the last 6:11 of the game.

"I told the team that if this game was close, there was no way Ramstein was going to get the ball at the end," Seaberry eaid

Heidelberg lost to Ramstein in last season's U.S. Forces Europe title game.

Heidelberg women 66, Kalserslautern 61: The Lady Generals were playing without leading scorer and rebounder Tiffany Collins, who averaged 19points in Heidelberg's previous two victories here but was playing with her German league team on Sunday, but the Lady Generals got 17 points each from Nina Beamon and Tina Barnes to take up the slack.

"Everyone pulled together and played together," Barnes said of his team, which also was missing veteran scoring threat Rhonda Williams because of injury. "We believed in one another, and that's a big deal."



10-3-Auty p.d. abon isatismi, center, of the concenter, in; who was womed in action, stands with other military personnel honoring the flag prior to the start of the game between the Dallas Mavericks and the Allanta Hawke on Saturday night in Dallas. Nearly 140 season-ticket holders donated their front row tickets so the soldiers could enjoy the game. The Mavericks defeated the Hawks 90-68.

Mavs' stiff defense too much for Hawks

BY JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks got instant results from a two-day crash course in defense. Then again, it helped that they were playing the Atlanta Hawks.

The Hawks matched a franchise-low by scoring 28 points in the first half and the Mavericks wound up tying a franchise low for points allowed in a game in a 90-68 victory Saturday night.

"It was what I expected after a couple days of practice," Dallas coach Don Nelson said.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 15 points and 12 rebounds, despite losing his front teeth. His gritty performance was fitting considering 137 U.S. soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan sat in front-row seats.

The soldiers from Brooke Army Medical Center near San Antonio were flown in as part of a thank-you campaign thought up by a season-ticket holder, with more than \$150,000 in courtside seats donated by fellow season-ticket holders. The soldiers—all wearing materials T-shurts—all vearing materials T-shurts—quite apparent—received a standing ovation after the first quarter.

Nowitzki was hit in the mouth by teammate Jason Terry and Atlanta's Jason Collier while going for a rebound a few minutes in. He returned late in the first

He returned late in the first quarter without the dental bridge that comprises most of his top teeth. He had it put back in at halftime with a cream a team employee bought at a drug store during the first half.

"I was lucky enough that my dentist was actually at the game," Nowitzki said. "He came in and fixed it real quick. I've got to go back and see him [Sunday]."

Nowitzki played 32 minutes, making five of 12 shots and uncharacteristically missing five of 10 foul shots. It hardly mattered, though, because of how poorly the Hawks played.

Atlanta opened with seven straight misses and made just one of its first 15 shots. The Hawks



Forward Dirk Nowitzki led the Mavericks with 15 points and 12 rebounds despite having a dental bridge knocked out in the first auarter of Saturday's victory.

didn't get a basket from a starter until there was 1:23 left in the first quarter and they finished the period with just 12 points. They had 16 in the second quarter, getting the last two on foul shots with 0.5 seconds left, giving them just 28 at halftime for the fourth time in franchise history.

Their 68 points set a season low for the second time in three games; they had 69 against Houston on Wednesday. Atlanta shot just 33 percent in losing its fifth straight, keeping the Hawks stuck at four wins, second worst in the NBA.

"The first and second quarters" coach Mike Woodson said. "We just couldn't make our shots. We lost our confidence a little bit shooting the ball."

Considering that the Hawks missed layups, dunks and 10 of their first 14 free throws during the slow start, it's hard to credit the Mavs' defense too much. But Dallas, which had lost its last three at home, was coming off two long practices in which coach Don Nelson tried regaining the densive intensity his layers showed when they started the season 7-1.

Sgt. Delbert Jensen

Your friends and co-workers at Noramco want to wish you a Happy Holiday!

STARS STRIPES

www.stripes.com

Iverson gets season-best 54

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE - A night after the Philadelphia 76ers had a disheartening loss, Allen Iverson made sure it wouldn't hannen again by playing one of the best games of his stellar career.

Iverson scored a season-high 54 points, including his 15,000th career point, and the Sixers won for the fourth time in five games. earning a 116-97 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday

"I called his play as many times



as I possibly could, and it makes my job a lot easier," Philadelphia coach O'Brien said.

It was the seventh time in Iver son's nine-year career that he had scored at least 50 points in a regular-season game, and he has done it three times in the playoffs.

His career-high is 58 points against Houston in an overtime game on Jan 15, 2002, and the 54 points tied his second-highest scoring total in a regular-season game

The Bucks tried several differdefenders against the five-time All-Star, but none could slow him. He made 17 of 29 shots and 16 of 21 free throws, grabbing eight rebounds before exiting with 2:34 left and the Sixers leading 106-87.

Iverson said he did not mind sitting out the final minutes of a blowout victory instead of attempting to set a career high.

"Honestly, and I can't be any truer than this, all I wanted was for the Milwaukee Bucks to be down one point once there were all zeroes on the board," he said.

The Sixers blew a 19-point, fourth-quarter lead in an overtime loss to New York on Friday night. They opened an 18-point third-quarter lead against Milwaukee, but watched as the Bucks pulled within 64-63 on Michael Redd's 3-pointer with 4:44 left in the quarter.

Philadelphia, though, went on a 9-0 run to open a 10-point lead and the Bucks came no closer than seven points the rest of the game, and no closer than nine in the fourth quarter.

"We're starting to get some things, and four out of five (games won) is a good indicator,

Milwaukee, decimated by injuries, has gone 3-14 since starting the season 3-1.

"The biggest thing for us was we struggled offensively and we are just really limited as to what we can run because of all the new guys," Milwaukee coach Terry Porter said.

Iverson is the seventh active player and 93rd in NBA history to score 15,000 points. He scored 33 first-half points, making 12 of 17 shots and six of seven free

His 17-foot jump shot with 6:19 left in the second quarter gave him 15.001 points.



Philadelphia 76ers' Allen Iverson (3) puts up a shot around Milwaukee Bucks' Desmond Mason in the first quarter Saturday in Milwaukee.

Bobcats 101, Rockets 100 (OT): Bloodied in the final seconds of overtime. Emeka Okafor battled for a critical loose ball that helped expansion Charlotte secure its first winning streak.

Okafor also had 23 points and 17 rebounds, his 12th consecutive game in double figures in both cat-

Keith Bogans finished with 19 points Gerald Wallace had 15 and Jamal Sampson had 11 rebounds for the Bobcats, who won their second straight game and fifth consecutive at the Charlotte Coliseum

Tracy McGrady scored 29 for the Rockets.

Magic 117, Nuggets 95: At Orlando lando, Fla., Cuttino Mobley scored 19 points to lead a balattack, and Orlando snapped a three-game losing streak by beating weary and wounded Denver.

Orlando shot a season-high 58.1 percent, had six players score in double figures, and tied its season heet with 30 assists

Trail Blazers 75. Pistons 74: Darius Miles made a free throw

with 0.5 seconds remaining, lifting visiting Portland over Detroit. Nick Van Exel led Portland with 14 points, and Miles added

Rasheed Wallace had 17 points and 12 rebounds, while Chauncey Billups finished with 16. Richard Hamilton scored 11, but missed 19 of 22 shots

Celtics 114 Cavaliers 107 (OT): At Cleveland, Paul Pierce scored 34 points and Gary Payton made a crucial three-pointer and three free throws in the final 1:17 to help Boston snap Cleveland's nine-game, home-winning streak

Payton's three-pointer from the left wing came 14 seconds after LeBron James fouled out leaving the Cavaliers without their leading scorer when they needed him

Suns 110. Wizards 96: Shawn Marion had a season-high 36 points and 14 rebounds, and Quentin Richardson added 19 points for the host Suns.

Leading scorer Amare Stoudemire got in foul trouble and had just eight points in 22 minutes for Phoenix, snapping his team-best streak of double-digit games at 53. But Steven Hunter filled in, tying his career high with 17 points, including two putbacks late in the game that locked up the Suns' eighth straight win and franchise-best 17th win in 18

Bulls 85. Pacers 71: At Chicago. Eddy Curry had season highs with 23 points and 13 rebounds. and Chicago earned its first three-game winning streak in two

Bulls last had three-game winning streak in December 2002 but haven't won four in a row since 1998 when their last championship team ran off 13 straight victories.

Spurs 104, Warriors 85: At San Antonio, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili each scored 21 points, including 15 straight in the second quarter, in leading San Antonio over Golden State.

Tim Duncan added 12 points for the Spurs, who extended their winning streak to four games and beat the Warriors for the 15th straight time at home.

Jason Richardson led the Warriors with 22 points, 16 in the first

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

ew York iston iiladelphia	12 11 10	11 12 13	.522 .478 .435	GB 1 2 5	0-0 0. Total Portland Detroit
ronto"	-8	17	.320	5	Three-Po
w Jersey So	utheast Divis	15 ion	.318	41/2	(Stoudamir Anderson
iami	18	7	.720	-	Prince 1-3,
lando ashington	14 13	9	.609	3 3½	ton 0-2). For land 46 (Ra
arlotte lanta	6	14 20	.300	9½ 13½	14). Assists troit 20 (Bil
	Central Division				Detroit 16.
eveland	14	10	.583		A-22,076 (2
troit	12	11	.522	11/2	
diana nicago	12 7	15	.522	1½ 6	Bu
lwaukee	6	15	.286	61/2	ΙΝΟΙΔΝΔ

Western Conference

Southwest Division							
	w	L	Pct	GB			
an Antonio	20	5	.800	-			
allas	16		.640	4			
ouston	11	13	.458	81/2			
lemphis	10	15	.400	10			
ew Orleans .	. 2	. 20	.091	161/2			
Northwest	Divis	ion					
eattle	18	5	.783	-			
linnesota	15	8	.652	3			
enver	13	11	.542	51/2			
ortland	12	11	.522	6			
tah	10	14	.417	81/2			
Pacific D	ivisio	n					
hoenix	21	3	.875	-			
acramento	15	7	.682	5			
A. Lakers	13	10	.565	71/2			

New Jersey at Toronto Orlando at Miami New Orleans at Sacram

Utah at Phil oronto at Houston ortland at Chicago

Saturday Magic 117, Nuggets 95

DENVER — Nene 3-4 1-4 7, Martin 6-17 4-5 6, Camby 2-8 0-0 4, Buckner 2-5 0-0 5, Miller -10 3-3 13, Russell 0-4 0-0 0, Boykins 5-13 2-2 3, DJohnson 6-12 4-9 18, Elson 3-6 0-0 6, /hite 5-8 1-3 13, Tskitishvill 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 7-01 15-75 6 19, bc-s-3, 13, Tskittsnvin o-7, 37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-5.
37-31, 15-20-

Orlando
Three-Point Goals—Denver 6-18 (White
2-3, D.Johnson 2-4, Boykins 1-3, Buckner 1-3,
Millier 0-1, Martin 0-1, Russell 0-3, Orlando
5-12 (Mobley 4-6, Garrity 1-2, Nelson 0-2,
Turkogliu 0-2, Fouled out -None, Rebounds—Denver 56 (Martin, D.Johnson 8), Orlando
5 (Kasun 10), Assists—Denver 16 (Miller,
Martin, D.Johnson 3), Orlando 30 (Francis
11), Total 10uss—Denver 14, Orlando 20.

Bobcats 101, Rockets 100 (OT)

HOUSTON — JJackson 5-13 0-0 12, Howard -9 1-1 11, Yao 6-9 4-4 16, Sura 2-3 2-2 7, McGrady 9-30 9-10 29, Mutombo 2-5 7-8 11, ue 2-5 0-0 6, Bowen 1-2 0-0 2, Taylor 3-7 0-0 Lue 2-5 U-U 6, Bowen 1-2 0-0 2, Taylor 3-7 6, Padgett 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-83 23-25 100, CHARLOTTE — Wallace 3-13 9-12 15, Okaf 10-26 3-4 23, Brezec 3-6 5-6 11, Knight 3-6 17, Bogans 6-12 4-4 19, Ely 0-3 2-4 2, Hart 1 3-4 5, Rush 1-5 3-4 6, Kapono 4-8 0-0 9, Sam h 0-3 0-0 0. Tot

Charlotte 28 21 23 22 7-10 Three-Point Goals—Houston 7-19 (Lue 23, JJackson 2-7, McGrady 2-8, Sura 1-1), Char-lotte 5-14 (Boggans 3-6, Kapono 1-3, Rush 1-3, Doubles 1-10, Charlotte 3-10, Charlotte 6-10, Charlotte 6-10, Charlotte 6-10, Charlotte 6-10, Charlotte 6-10, Charlotte 6-10, Assists—Houston 16 (McGrady 9), Charlotte 24 (Knight 11), Total fouls— Houston 31, Charlotte 26, A 2-17,320 (23,319).

Celtics 114. Cavaliers 107 (OT) BOSTON — Welsch 2-4 0-0 5, LaFrentz 3-6 -6 12, Blount 1-4 0-0 2, Payton 8-16 3-4 21. 6-6 12, Blourt 1-4 0-0 2, Payton 8-16 3-4 21, Pierce 10-20/3-14 34, Davis 4-124-5 14, Banks 2-4 4-6 8, Jefferson 2-5 4-6 5, Allen 4-12-2 6, 2-4 4-6 8, Jefferson 2-5 4-6 5, Allen 4-12-2 6, CLEVELAND — James 12-25 4-8 31, Gooden 6-12 5-6 17, Ilgauskas 7-16 7-9 21, McInnis 6-14 2-5 6 17, Ilgauskas 7-16 7-9 21, McInnis 6-14 2-2 16, Newble 1-5 0-02, Harris 3-4-1-27, Diop 0-1 0-0 0, Wagner 2-5 6-0 4, Pavlovic 3-5 117, Varejas 0-12 2-2 Totals 40-88 22-30

27 27 20 28 12-114 fouls—Boston 21, Cleveland 23 (McInnis 9). To fouls—Boston 21, Cleveland 36, Technicals-Roston coach Rivers. A—18,904 (20,562).

Trail Blazers 75. Pistons 74 Outlaw 0-0 0-0 0, Stoudamire 4-9 3-3 14, Przy billa 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 29-71 12-16 75

DETROIT — Prince 7-14 0-0 15, R.Wallace 7-19 2-2 17, B.Wallace 2-7 1-2 5, Billups 5-15 3-5 16, Hamilton 3-22 5-5 11, Hunter 0-3 0-0 0, McDyess 5-8 0-1 10, Dupree 0-3 0-0 0, Ham 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 29-92 11-15 74.

20 22 17 16-75 19 17 15 23-74 19 17 15 23 - 74

Dint Goals - Portland 5-13

re 3-5, Van Exel 2-4, Patterson 0-1,
0-3), Detroit 5-15 (Billups 3-6,
R. Wallace 1-3, Hunter 0-1, Hamilbuled out - None. Rebounds -- Portandolph 10), Detroit 67 (R. Wallace
is -- Portland 18 (Van Exel 8), De
s-Portland 18 (Van Exel 8), De-

Bulls 85, Pacers 71

INDIANA — Foster 4-13 4-5 12, J.Jones 1-4

Lat. State 21: 22 09 2-71. Chicago Three-Point Goals—Indiana 1-16 (Tinsley 1-5, Jones 0-1, Gill 0-1, Fjones 0-3, Miller 0-5), Chicago 4-16 (Hinrich 3-7, Duhon 1-5, Notout – ECurry, Rebounds – Indiana 53 (Foster 18), Chicago 78 (Ecurry 13). Assists—Indiana 12 (Tinsley 4), Chicago 19 (Duhon 1-1), Notout – ECurry 13). Assists—Indiana 12 (Tinsley 4), Chicago 19 (Duhon 1-1), Notout – Ecurry 13). Assists—Indiana 12 (Tinsley 4), Chicago 19 (Duhon 1-1), Notout 1-10 (Tinsley 4), Chicago 19 (Tinsley 4), Chicago 19 (Tinsley 4), Chic

76ers 116. Bucks 97

PHILADELPHIA — Iguodala 6-9 5-6 18, Will-imson 5-10 5-6 15, Dalembert 2-5 1-2 5. ison 5-10 5-6 15, Dalembert 2-5 1-2 5, en 3-8 0-0 6, Iverson 17-29 16-21 54, Jack-1-4 5-5 7, Korver 3-9 2-2 11, Skinner 0-1 0, McKle 0-3 0-0 0, Ollie 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 0 0, McKie 0-3 0-0 0, Oilie 0-2 0-0 0. Totals -80 34-42 116. MILWAUKEE — Mason 2-10 10-12 14, Smith

1-4, Mason 0-1, M.James 0-1), Fouled out --Ko-rver, Rebounds—Philadelphia 55 (Dalembert 15), Milwaukee 65 (Gadzuric, Smith 14), As-sists—Philadelphia 24 (Werson, iguodala 5), Sists—Philadelphia 26, Milwaukee 29, Techni-cals—Philadelphia 26, Milwaukee 29, Techni-cals—Philadelphia Defensive Three Second, Williamson, Mason, Fizer, Ejected—Mason, A—16,393 (B,717).

Mavericks 90, Hawks 68

ATLANTA — Harrington 3-8 0-2 6, Walker 6-15 1-4 13, Collier 4-7 1-2 9, J.Smith 4-11 1-2 9, Diaw 0-2 0-0 0, Drobnjak 5-10 1-2 11, Ivey 0-3 1-2 1, Delk 4-13 0-0 8, Childress 3-9 3-4 9, Inderson 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 30-81 8-18 68.

DALLAS — Howard 6-13 1-2 13, Nowitzki
1-12 5-10 15, Dampier 3-8 4-6 10, Finley 3-13
1-0 7, Terry 4-9 4-6 12, Henderson 1-4 0-0 2,
Iarris 3-6 2-3 8, Booth 4-7 0-0 8, Daniels 5-7 0-0 11, Armstrong 0-3 4-4 4, Bradley 0-1 0-0 0 Totals 34-83 20-31 90.

Atlanta 0-8 (Diaw Dallas 2-15 (Dan ki 0-1, Armstrono Three-Point Goals—Atlanta 0-8 (Diaw 0-1, Delk 0-2, Walker 0-5), Dallas 2-15 (Daniels 1-2, Finley 1-5, Nowitzki 0-1, Armstrong 0-1, Dampler 0-1, Terry 0-1, Howard 0-2, Harris 0-2), Fouled out—None, Rebounds—Atlanta 0-2). Polited out—Norne. Rebourds—Attants 53 (Walker 11), Dallas 68 (Dampier 13). As sists—Atlanta 16 (J.Smith 4), Dallas 17 (Terry 4). Total fouls—Atlanta 22, Dallas 18 A—20,068 (19,200).

Spurs 104, Warriors 85

GOLDEN STATE — Dunleavy 4-8 0-0 9, Mur shy 6-17 4-4 17, Robinson 1-6 0-0 2, Claxto 1-14 4-6 16, Richardson 10-19 1-4 22, Davis 2-2-6, Cheaney 1-1 0-0 2, Pietrus 2-6 3-5 7, Na or 0-3 0-0 0, Foyle 0-0 2-2 2, Sesay 1-1 0-0 , Cheaney 1-1 0-0 2, Pietrus 2-6 3-0-3 0-0 0, Foyle 0-0 2-2 2, Sesay 1-es 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 33-79 16-23 85.

Three-Point Goals—Golden State 3-13 (Mur-phy 1-1, Dunleavy 1-1, Richardson 1-2, Flores 0-1, Robinson 0-2, Claxton 0-3, Pietrus 0-3), San Antonio 4-11 (Ginobili 2-3, Udrin 1-1, Barry 1-2, Bowen 0-1, Horry 0-1, Wilks 0-1, Brown 0-2). Fouled out - Hone. Rebound-5—Golden State 47 (Richardson 10), San An-tonio 54 (Ourcan, Ginobili, Horry 7). As-sists—Golden State 9 (Claxton 4). 20, San Antonio 19. Technicals—San Antonio Defensive Three Second. A—17,467 (18,500).

WASHINGTON — Jamison 11-17 0-0 25, Jef-fries 1-3 0-0 2, Haywood 3-6 2-2 8, Arenas 7-17 3-5 19, Hughes 6-18 2-3 19, Hayes 2-5 0-0 4, Brown 2-4 0-0 4, Dixon 1-4 0-0 3, Peeler 1-6 0-0 3, Profit 4-7 0-0 9, Ruffin 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-87 7-10 96.

0-0 13, Johnson 4-14 0-0 9, Hunter 7-8 3-4 17, Barbosa 1-6 0-2 2, Jacobsen 2-3 0-0 6, Outlaw 0-1 0-0 0, Lampe 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 43-90 11-15

Washington 28 17 22 29 – 96 Phoenix Three-Point Goals—Washington 9-25 (Jamison 3-4, Arenas 2-7, Profit I-1, Dixon 1-3, Hughes 1-3, Peeler 1-4, Hayes 0-3), Phoenix 1-3-26 (Richardson 5-10, Marion 4-5, Jacobsen 2-3, Nash 1-2, Johnson 1-3, Barbosa 0-2), Folued out-None. Rebounds—Washington 51 (Jamison 9), Phoenix 48 (Marion 14). Assists—Washington 21 (Hughes 6), Phoenix 1-95 (Phoenix 1-95), Ph 28 (Nash 11). Total fouls—Washii Phoenix 15, 4—16,948 (18,422).

Shell interested in Dolphins' vacancy

MIAMI - Former Oakland Raiders coach Art Shell is interested in the Miami Dolphins' job. possibly joining LSU coach Nick Saban as a candidate, an NFL source with knowledge of the job search said Saturday

Shell might receive an interview. source said on

condition of **Sports** anonymity. Bv briefs

inter viewing Shell, the NFL's se-

nior vice president for football operations Miami would comply with a league requirement that teams interview a minority candidate for any coaching vacancy.

Shell became the first black coach of the modern era in 1989 with the Raiders, but he hasn't been a head coach since 1994

Dolphins interim coach Jim Bates is also expected to interview for the job. Preparing his team to play the New England Patriots Rates said he advised management he wants to wait until after the game to discuss plans for an interview

"I told them I didn't want anything to distract me from Monday night's game," Bates said.

Saban, the only coach the Dolphins have confirmed is a candidate, said he has had no contact with Miami since interviewing Tuesday with owner Wayne Huizenga and president Eddie Jones in Baton Rouge, La.

"I don't have a timetable," Saban said. "I don't know what their timetable is. ... They need time to go through the process and the things they need to do, and we'll make a decision as soon as we get the parameters of what the job basically entails."

If offered the Dolphins job, Saban said, his decision won't be "It's especially difficult when

you have such a good job that you eniov so much, and have a tremendous amount of gratitude for the opportunity to continue to have success here because of the tremendous support," he said.

In five seasons at Louisiana State. Saban has won two Southeastern Conference titles and the 2003 BCS national championship. He's preparing LSU for a game against Iowa in the Capital One Bowl on Jan. 1 in Orlando, and his possible departure has alarmed Tigers fans

The Dolphins declined to comment Saturday on their search. Saban has been considered the favorite for the job ever since coach Dave Wannstedt resigned last month after Miami started the season 1-8

Shell, a Hall of Fame offensive tackle, played for the Oakland-Los Angeles Raiders from 1968-82 and had a 56-41 record the Raiders from coaching 1989-94. He led them to three playoff berths and to the AFC title game in 1991.

He also worked as an assistant coach for the Raiders. Kansas City and Atlanta.

Grandi wins first Cup GS

ALTA BADIA, Italy - Canada's Thomas Grandi won a giant slalom Sunday for his first World Cup victory in his 12 seasons on

Austria's Benjamin Raich was second and Switzerland's Didier Cuche and Austria's Hermann Maier shared third

Bode Miller missed a gate and did not finish his second run, reducing the American's lead in the overall standings. Winner of six of 13 races this season, Miller still holds a 798-479 points lead on Miller said he skied over a rock

during his first run and was in 20th place, perhaps causing him to be too aggressive in the second

Grandi became the first Canadian man to win a World Cup race since Cary Mullen at Aspen, Colo., in 1994. Grandi was second after the first run. He covered the steep and twisting Gran Risa course in a two-run time of 2 minutes, 34.23 seconds

Judges go Johnson's way in bout with Tarver

BY JOHN NADEL The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES -Johnson knows what it's like to put his fate in the hands of boxing judges and have decisions go against him.

So, he was prepared for the vorst Saturday night. He got the best. Johnson, a virtual unknown

until knocking out Roy Jones Jr., three months ago, won a split decision over Antonio Tarver in a matchup of the best light heavy weights

'My heart was beating real fast," he said with a smile when asked if he was concerned about the outcome. "I came out ahead, which doesn't happen too often. I'm just thankful?

The Staples Center crowd cheered throughout the final round, and when it ended, both fighters thrust their fists into

the air, proclaiming victory.

The winner proved to be Johnson, who overcame Tarver's 4-inch height advantage to win, mainly by being the ag-gressor through most of the 12-round bout.

The 35-year-old Johnson raised his record to 42-9-2 with 28 knockouts. He didn't begin to box until he was 20, and turned professional three years later. Johnson won his first 32 pro-

fessional fights but was 9-9-2 in his most recent 20 before Saturday night. He thought he won many of those that he lost, but the judges involved ruled otherwise. "I fought my best fight, the

outcome is what it is," he said. Judges Melvina Lathan and Chuck Giampa scored the bout 115-113 in favor of Johnson. Judge Marty Denkin had it 116-112 for Tarver.

The Associated Press scored it 115-113 for Tarver.

The 6-foot-21/2 Tarver, a solid favorite, said he thought he won by dictating the pace and throwing the harder "It could have gone either

way. I closed strong." Tarver Lathan and Giampa didn't

think so, with each giving Johnson the final three

Tarver, a southpaw, said he injured his left hand when he Johnson in the fourth or fifth round.

"My best weapon was taken away from me," he said. "That's boxing. It's a tough sport, man. We both fought like warriors. We prepared for the best Glen Johnson. He's proven to be a worthy champion. Tonight's his night.

"We'll be back. That's the mark of a champion — if you can come back from defeat. We all know I can. Congratulations to Glen.'



CONTRA COSTA TIMES/KRT

Washington Redskins Walt Harris comes up with a fourth quarter interception as intended 49ers receiver Curtis Conway watches.

Skins capitalize on 49ers' errors

BY GREG BEACHAM The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO - Antonio Pierce found out just how easy it has become to beat the San Fran-cisco 49ers: Simply stand in one place and allow their mistakes to The Washington linebacker got

his first NFL touchdown on an interception thrown by Ken Dors-ey, who hit Pierce between the numbers deep in Redskins territory with 48 seconds left in the first

Pierce returned it 78 yards for a score in a 26-16 victory on Saturday. Though the Redskins committed many of the same penalties, mistakes and lapses that have plagued their season, he realizes Washington's problems pale in comparison to San Francisco's

"San Francisco, they're going to improve in the future, but we felt this was a game we should have, no excuses," said Pierce, who had the biggest of Washing-ton's four interceptions. "It was 78 yards to the end zone? I knew there was a reason I was tired.

Patrick Ramsey passed for 214 yards and a touchdown, Clinton Portis rushed for 110 yards and Rod Gardner caught six passes for 111 yards — but the Redskins (5-9) were disappointed in their offense, which scored its only touchdown on the opening drive.

'We had an opportunity to lose that game if our defense didn't play so well," Ramsey said. "[The offense is] contributing more, but not as much as we would like. We've just got to get the ball in the end zone. Washington also committed 11

penalties for 93 yards to stay on pace to break the franchise record. Without newcomer Jeff Chandler, who kicked four field goals, the Redskins' task would have been much tougher.

But when teams face San Francisco (2-12), they've got plenty of margin for all sorts of errors.

"The thing that I am proudest of is just the way they fight," guys fight hard every week, and sometimes things are not that pretty. We just fought and played

The Redskins took a 19-point lead late in the first half, and the sturdy defense shut out the Niners' offense for more than 45 minutes between Brandon Lloyd's early TD catch and Curtis Conway's scoring grab with 4:26 left.

Dorsey, making his fifth start in place of injured Tim Rattay, doubled his interception total for the season, including three in the first half. He finished 20-for-38 for 206 yards, but the 49ers remained on track for the top draft pick with more of the bland offense and sten-slow defense that has defined their season

"Defensively, time after time after time, we kept ourselves in the football game," 49ers coach Dennis Erickson said. "We just didn't make the plays we needed to, throwing the football."

With season-ending losses to Buffalo and New England, San Francisco could match the worst records in franchise history, set in 1978 and 1979.

"Two very costly decisions, that's how I sum up this game, Dorsey said, referring to two of his first-half interceptions. "At the end of the half, you've got to get at least three points out of that. That's all things you've got to learn from and make sure don't happen again." Star linebacker LaVar Ar-

rington returned to the Redskins' lineup after missing 11 weeks with a knee injury.



SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON: Compare tires of a specific size or for a specific vehicle side-by-side using our Tire Compare feature.

WESTERN

Steelers, Roethlisberger keep going straight ahead

BY TOM CANAVAN The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD N.I -The main thing separating Ben Roethlisberger and Eli Manning on Saturday was the Pittsburgh Steelers' rookie quarterback made his biggest plays with the game on the line.

Roethlisberger threw for a season-high 316 yards and hit four straight passes to set up Jerome Bettis' game-winning 1-yard run with 4:57 to go, leading the Pittsburgh Steelers to a 33-30 win over the New York Giants.

"I am amazed, but he is an awesome quarterback," receiver Antwaan Randle El said after Roethlisberger led the Steelers (13-1) to a team-record 12th straight win and handed the Giants (5-9) a seventh straight loss

"He might have a long way to go, but he has this great poise," said Randle El, who caught five passes for 149 yards and a TD and also threw his first career TD. "You can have all the ability in the world, but if you don't have to the poise to do it, it won't happen.

Roethlisberger, who has not lost in 25 straight college and pro starts, showed his poise in mov ing the Steelers from their 33 to the New York 8 after a Tiki Barber 1-vard run had given New York a 30-26 lead.

"He has been making good decisions with games on the line," coach Bill Cowher said of the 11th pick in the NFL Draft, "In the fourth quarter, he has a feel for the game and an understanding of the game, and he manages it well

Until Saturday, Manning has struggled in losing his first four starts. The No. 1 pick in the draft was horrible in his past two games and seemingly had lost his confidence.

Using a game plan filled with plays he liked, Manning found himself against the NFL's top-ranked defense. He threw two touchdown passes and set up Barber's go-ahead touchdown with three completions of 15 yards or more.

"I had fun because we were getting some stuff done," said Man-



Steelers receiver Antwaan Randle El (82) runs away from Giants cornerback Will Allen after a reception in the first half. Each of his receptions in the first half went for more than 30 yards, including a 35-yard TD.

ning, who completed 16 of 23 for 182 yards. "We were making plays, running the ball, the line was protecting, receivers were making catches. We got in a rhythm, and it was back to playing football again. It was a good

Roethlisberger hit five passes of 34 or more yards in a much-hyped matchup with Manning, who only had one longer than 20 yards

The two talked before the game and they congratulated each other after it was over.

"I don't ever want to remember what it is like to lose," said Roeth-lisberger, who also threw two in-

Randle El caught a 35-vard touchdown pass and threw a 10-yard shovel pass to Verror Haynes for a touchdown. Jeff Reed kicked four field goals, Hines Ward had nine catches for 134 yards despite finishing the game with a hip pointer and Bettis ran for 140 yards for the SteelManning threw touchdown passes of 2 yards to Jeremy Shockey and 1 yard to Marcellus Rivers. He also hit Amani Toomer with two 17-yard passes and he added a 15-yarder to Ike Hilliard to set up Barber's go-ahead TD run.

Manning was sacked on a 2-point conversion attempt.

Roethlisberger then sand-wiched passes of 9 and 11 yards to Ward around a dump off to Bettis before hitting Randle El for 36 yards to the Giants 8. Three straight runs by Bettis got the ball in the end zone.

Willie Williams picked off a deep throw to a tripped Toomer on the next series, and the Steelers ran out the clock

Giants receiver Willie Ponder took the opening kickoff 91 yards for a score. It was the Giants' first game-opening kickoff return for a touchdown in a regular-season home game in their 80-year histo-

The Steelers used trickery to tie the game with Randle El making the shovel pass after taking a lateral from Roethlisberger.

NFL scoreboard

American Conference East W L T Pct PF PA 12 1 0 .923 365 217 9 4 0 .692 260 192 7 6 0 .538 297 231 7 6 0 .538 297 231 2 11 0 .154 213 289 h 3 0 .769 454 277 6 0 .538 220 228 8 0 .385 250 312 9 0 .308 269 343 x-Indianapolis Jacksonville Houston Tennessee 13 1 0 .929 323 220 8 5 0 .615 270 205 6 7 0 .462 296 207 x-Pittsburgh Cincinnati Cleveland 6 7 0 .462 296 307 3 10 0 .231 247 345

West 10 3 0 .769 370 262 8 5 0 .615 294 229 5 8 0 .385 390 364 4 9 0 .308 244 363

San Diego

Denver Kansas City

National Conference								
East								
	W	L	т	Pct PF PA				
x-Philadelphia	12	1	0	.923 357 195				
Dallas	5	8		.385 249 355				
N.Y. Giants	5			.357 253 300				
Washington			0	.357 209 234				
	South							
x-Atlanta	11	3	0	.786 301 283				
Carolina	6	8	0	.429 300 298				
Tampa Bay	5	8	0	.385 257 234				
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385 280 357				
	North							
Green Bay	8	5	0	.615 334 307				
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538 328 313				
Detroit	5		0	.385 231 285				
Chicago	5	8	0	.385 199 257				
	West							
Seattle	7	6	0	.538 305 289				
St. Louis	6		0	.462 260 325				
Arizona	4		0	.308 220 284				
San Francisco	2	12	0	.143 245 390				
x-clinched division								

Saturoay 5 gans-Pittsburgh 33, N.Y. Giants 30 Washington 26, San Francisco 16 Atlanta 34, Carolina 31, OT Sunday's games

Houston at Chicago

Seattle at N.Y. Jets

Buffalo at Cincinnati San Diego at Cleveland St. Louis at Arizona San Diego at Creveland St. Louis at Arizona New Orleans at Tampa Bay Jacksonville at Green Bay Tennessee at Oakland Baltimore at Indianapolis Monday's gan New England at Miami Friday's game Green Bay at Minnesota Saturday, Dec. 25 Oakland at Kansas City Denver at Tennesse Sunday, Dec. 26

Sunday, Dec. Chicago at Detroit San Diego at Indianapolis Baltimore at Pittsburgh N.Y. Glants at Cincinnati Buffalo at San Francisco New England at N.Y. Jets Arizona at Seattle Washington at Dallas Carolina at Tampa Bay Cleveland at Miami Monday, Dec. 27

Saturday Steelers 33, Giants 30

10 10 3 10-33 14 0 10 6-30

First Quarter NY—Ponder 91 kickoff return (Christie PIt—Haynes 10 pass from Randle El (Reed kick), 7:26. NY—Shockey 2 pass from Manning (Christie kick), 4:02.

Second Quarter
Pit—Randle El 35 pass from Roethlisberger
Reed kick), 5:36.

Pit-FG Reed 21, :14. NY-FG Christie 22, 8:35.

NY-Rivers 1 pass from Manning (Christie kick), :29.

Fourth Quarter Pit—FG Reed 28, 11:35 oc falled) 8-15

Passing 182 Punt R 6-127 Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int 1-0 2-12 19-29-2 16-23-1 Sacked-Yards Lost 0-00.0 3-34.0 Fumbles-Lost Penalties-Yards Time of Possession

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS Rushing—Pittsburgh, Bettis 36-140, Haynes 2-21, Roethilsberger 1-(minus 1). New York, Barber 18-76, Manning 2-18, Dayne 1-2. Passing—Pittsburgh, Roethilsberger 18-28-2-316, Randle El 1-1-0-10. New York,

18-28-2-316, Randle El 1-1-0-10. New York Manning 16-23-1-182. Receiving—Pittsburgh, Ward 9-134, Randle El 5-149, Haynes 3-28, Mays 1-12, Bettis 1-3. New York, Barber 5-38, Hillard 3-34, Shockey 3-13, Toomer 2-34, Tyree 1-49, Finn 1-13, Riv-ers 1-1. Missed field goals—None.

Redskins 26, 49ers 16

oan rrancisco 7 2 0 7-16

Was-Royal 12 pass from Ramsey (Chandler kick), 9:14.
SF-Lloyd 17 pass from Dorsey (Peterson kick), 4:50. Second Qua

Was-FG Chandler 49, 14:45. Was-FG Chandler 25, 8:28. Was-FG Chandler 20, 5:17. SF—Safety, Tupa kicked blocked punt out endzone, 2:08. Was-Pierce 78 interception return (Chan-ler kick), :48. Third Quarter

Was—FG Chandler 26, 3:32.

Fourth Quarter

SF—Conway 11 pass from Dorsey (Peteron kick), 4:26.

A-65,710 Total Net Yards 337 40-128 Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns ***erceptions Ret. 3-8 2-42 4-147 Comp-Att-Int 18-27-0 20-38-4 Sacked-Yards Lost 1-5 5-36.8 Fumbles-Lost 1.0 Penalties-Yards Time of Possess

ime of Possession 36:59
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Washington, Portis 35-110, (
ner 1-11, Betts 3-8, Ramsey 1-(minus 1)
Francisco, Hicks 11-37, Barlow 6-18, Do
1-0.

20-38-4-206. Lorsey Dorsey Receiving — Washington, Gardner 6-111, Coles 4-39, Cooley 3-21, Portis 3-20, Royal 1-12, Betts 1-11. San Francisco, EJohnson 8-73, Lloyd 4-51, Wilson 3-40, Conway 3-24, Hicks 2-18.

Missed field goals-None. Falcons 34, Panthers 31 (OT)

Second Quarter Atl—FG Feely 37, 14:11. Car—Muhammad 6 pass from Delhomme (Kasay kick), 7:23. Car—FG Kasay 21, :21.

Third Quarter
Atl—Dunn 6 run (Feely kick), 6:48.
Atl—White 12 pass from Vick (Feely kick), 2:47.

Fourth Quarter Car-Mangum 11 pass from Delhomme Kasay kick), 12:21. Car-Peppers 60 fumble return (Kasay kick), 10:09. 10:09. -Goings 5 run (Kasav kick), 3:37.

Atl-Vick 12 run (Feely kick), 1:37. Overtime Atl-FG Feely 38, 12:35.

Total Net Yards 375 Rushes-yards 25-61 38-204 Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. 314 Sacked-Yards Lost 4-26 4-24 3-48.3 2-43.0 Fumbles-Lost

6-3 7-50 Penalties-Yards Time of Possession 29:48 32:37 INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS Rushing—Carolina, Goings 24-61, Delhomme 1-0. Atlanta, Dunn 28-134, Vick 8-68, Wright 2-2. Passing—Carolina, Delhomme 24-35-1-340. Atlanta, Vick 11-28-2-154.

Atlanta, Vick 11-28-2-154. Receving—Carolina, Muhammad 10-135, Mangum 4-53, Goings 3-29, Proehl 2-40, Seidman 2-29, Hoover 2-11, Colbert 1-34, At-lanta, White 3-71, Crumpler 3-38, Finneran 3-19, Jenkins 1-22, Price 1-4. Missed field goal—Atlanta, Feely 45 (WL).

Calendar

/ild-card playoffs. Jan. 15-16 — Divisional playoffs.

Jan. 23 — Conference Championships.

Feb. 6 — Super Bowl, Jacksonville, Fla Pro Bowl, Honolulu. arch 1 — Scouting combine, India-

April 23-24 — NFI draft. New York

Vick: Turnovers costly for Panthers VICK, FROM BACK PAGE 11-yard touchdown pass from Del-

Delhomme was 24-for-35 for 340 yards, but he had two big fumbles and the game-deciding interception. Muhsin Muhammad had 10 receptions for 135 yards.

The Falcons jumped to a 10-0 lead, only to have the Panthers tie it up before halftime Atlanta seemed to be in control after scoring on its first two possessions of the second half but the Panthers responded with three straight TDs in the fourth quarter.

Kris Mangum caught

homme, then Julius Peppers stunned Vick with a 60-vard fumble return for a touchdown.

Brentson Buckner knocked the ball away from Vick, and Peppers grabbed it out of the air with one hand, sprinting the other way without being touched to tie it up with 10:09 remaining.

The Falcons regained the momentum with some trickery on the ensuing kickoff. Allen Rossum flipped a lateral pass to DeAngelo Hall, who went 48 vards before being shoved out of

Alge Crumpler fumbled that chance away at Carolina 22. Artrell Hawkins knocked the ball away and Dan Morgan recovered

The Panthers quickly drove for their first lead of the night. Delhomme's 43-yard pass to Keary Colbert was the big play, and Nick Goings ran 5 yards for a touchdown with 3:37 left in the fourth quarter.

That was enough time for Vick and the Falcons to make a comeback of their own.

Players added to proposed Johnson deal

NEW YORK - The megadeal involving Randy Johnson, Shawn Green and Javier Vazquez grew to 10 players Saturday, with the New York Yankees, Arizona and Los Angeles hoping to present the proposed trade to the commissioner's office soon for approval.



Weeden are now part of the deal, a baseofficial hall told The Associated Press on con-

dition of anonymity. The teams were aiming to put the whole deal down on paper this weekend and give it to the commissioner's office perhaps by

The deal needs permission because it involves more than \$1 million - as it stands, the Yankees would nay \$2 million of Ishii's con-

tract Plus, there might be a spinoff to the deal. There's speculation the Dodgers might get Vazquez from the Vankees and then trade the nitcher to the Chicago White Sox.

Johnson remains the centerpiece of the trade, with the Yankees trying to get the five-time Cy Young winner from Arizona. New York also would acquire Ishii, a left-hander who went 13-8 with a 4.71 ERA for Los Angeles last sea-

Johnson has a no-trade clause. but wants to play for the Yankees. Green also has a no-trade provision and the Dodgers outfielder has not yet waived it to play for

The Diamondbacks might be able to get Green to come to the desert though - his former agent, Jeff Moorad, is Arizona's new chief executive officer



Though talks stalled several weeks ago, GM Omar Minaya's visit to the Dominican Republic indicates the New York Mets may be renewing their efforts to acquire Sammy Sosa, above

Mets GM Minaya travels

to Dominican to visit Sosa Sammy Sosa renewed his vows with wife, Sonia, on Saturday in the Dominican Republic Mets General Manager Omar Minava attended the religious service. and appears to be renewing his efforts to obtain the slugger

Privately, Mets insiders say their differences with the Cubs on finances were like "night and day" when talks stalled several weeks ago, and that with no other serious suitors and Sosa's recently diminished production, Chicago brass will need to cave in financially before any deal can be consummated. One team official said the team had "cooled" on Sosa.

Yet Minava spoke at length at Thursday's news conference in Flushing to introduce Pedro Martinez about his ambition to make the Mets omnipresent in the Dominican Republic, the organization every prospect there dreams about. Adding Sosa certainly fits

Minaya also revealed that several players under contract to other teams have contacted him since Martinez committed to the

Athletics trade LHP Mulder to Cards for three prospects

BY JANIE MCCAULEY The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. - The Oakland Athletics traded their second top starter in three days, sending left-hander Mark Mulder to the National League champion St. Louis Cardinals on Saturday for a

package of prospects. Mulder follows Tim Hudson out of town, leaving Barry Zito as the only remaining member of Oakland's vaunted "Big Three" pitchers

Hudson was dealt to Atlanta on Thursday for three mostly unproven players

Mulder could be the top-notch pitcher the Cardinals sorely lacked when they got swept by the Boston Red Sox in the World Series, but that's if he's healthy

In return, the A's acquired pitchers Danny Haren and Kiko Calero and minor league catcher Daric Barton.

"We're extremely excited to have obtained a pitcher of Mark's caliber," Cardinals General Manager Walt Jocketty said. "He is the top of the rotation-type pitcher we've been working hard to obtain this offseason. It was difficult to part with the three players we traded but to acquire someone like Mulder we felt that this deal worked for us in several ways.

Mulder replaces Woody iams, who was not offered salary arbitration by the Cardinals and signed a free-agent deal earlier this month with San Diego. Mulder will join Chris Carpenter, Jason Marquis, Jeff Suppan and Matt Morris in a rotation where all five pitchers won at least 15 games last season. Morris might not be available until May after going undergoing offseason shoulder surgery



Mark Mulder was the second top starter to be traded by the Oakland Athletics in three days.

Mulder might have some health questions of his own, especially after his perplexing finish to last season.

The 6-foot-6 lefty, the AL start-er in the All-Star Game, seemed destined for Cy Young award consideration midway through the season, but went winless in his last seven starts — 0-4 with a 7.27

On Aug. 24, he became the first 17-game winner in the majors, then didn't win again. There was speculation he was hurt and not telling anyone.

Mulder missed the end of the 2003 season with a stress fracture in his right leg near the hip, then pitched a team-high 2252/3 innings in 2004. He repeatedly claimed to be

healthy despite a drop in his velocity late in the year. Manager Ken Macha said the day after the seaworn down by his heavy work

Mulder (17-8) pitched so poorly during the playoff push, the A's briefly considered skipping his turn and using September callup Joe Blanton during the final week-end against Anaheim. Mulder did get the call, but was knocked out after two innings, his shortest outing of the season - and the A's wound up missing the playoffs for the first time in five years.

He was drafted second overall by the A's in 1998 and was signed through the 2005 season with a club option to return in 2006.

After Hudson was swapped to the Braves, the news of Mulder's departure was even more shocking. At least in Hudson's case.

there had been rumors swirling. "What, you've got to be kidding e," outfielder Eric Byrnes said of Mulder being traded. "Wow. I don't know what to tell you."

Haren, a 24-year-old right-hander, was 3-3 with a 4.50 ERA in 14 games, including five starts, in three stints with the Cardinals last season.

Calero went 3-1 with two saves and a 2.78 ERA in 41 relief appearances for St. Louis in 2004, allowing a .176 opponent batting av-

Barton was the Cardinals' first-round pick (28th overall) in 2003. He spent last season at Single-A Peoria, where he batted .313 with 13 home runs and 77

This was the first major league trade between the clubs since the A's dealt Mark McGwire to St. ouis on July 31, 1997, for T.J. Mathews and minor league nitchers Blake Stein and Eric Lud-

AP Sports Writer R.R. Fallstrom contributed to this story

You know how to play the game, but do you know how to win?

Play the NFL Challenge at www.stripes.com or www.oconus.com for your chance to win cash!

As a BONUS PRIZE, the top winner each week wi receive \$100 toward TEAMSTORES

STARS STRIPES



Week 16 Pick Deadline: 2:00 pm, U.S. Central Time Friday, December 24

Log in every week during the 2004 NFL son and make your picks for the inners of upcoming NFL games. Earn points for every winning team you pick and at the end of the season, you ma find yourself the winner. * Enter the "secret code" above and DOURLE your point total for the week!

*Certain rules and restrictions apply. See the official rules of play at www.oconus.com/nfl an on stripes.com. There is no cost to participate, but you must register to play.



D.C. mayor Williams staking career on saving Washington baseball deal

BY BRETT ZONGKER The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Mayor Anthony A. Williams is staking his political career on whether his plan to bring Major League Base ball to the nation's capital is approved in the next two weeks.

Mayors are elected to lead and not be "a mirror and just reflect what people are saying," Will-iams said on "Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace.

Ten, 20 percent of the time you're elected to do what you think is in the best interests of the Williams said. "If people don't agree with that they can throw you out next time. And I think this is one of those issues

The city's deal to transform the Montreal Expos into the Washington Nationals and build a \$440 million stadium along the Anacostia River waterfront has a Dec. 31 deadline with baseball owners The District of Columbia Council



alternate plan Tues-day that requires pri-vate funding for half the dium. stadium construction

costs, a provision baseball rejected as "wholly unacceptable."

Williams is planning to meet with Council Chairman Linda W Cropp on Monday to try to sort out a compromise that could include private financing as well as guarantees for baseball. City officials are trying to arrange a meeting with baseball as well, he said.

"I actually am somewhat hopeful and optimistic that we can work something out," Williams said

Williams defended his stadium

only insofar as the city is involved in it. but it's really private, in that the largest businesses of the city have stood up voluntarily" to pay a special tax to help build the sta-

Critics have said the deal for publicly financed bonds is one of the most generous they have ever seen for Major League Baseball.

Cropp said she is willing to call special council session during the holidays to come up with an agreement, but baseball was not vet on the agenda Sunday for the final scheduled meeting of the year on Dec. 21, said Mark Johnson, a spokesman for Cropp.

The mayor and members of the D.C. Council were invited to participate in a town hall meeting on the issue Monday night, organized by a pro-baseball group. About 350 city residents were expected to attend, representing both sides of the issue, the group said

Gonzaga regains its swagger with upset of Ga. Tech

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The Gonzaga Bulldogs showed they belonged on the floor with a top-5 team. That wasn't the case earlier in this young season. Adam Morrison scored 24

Adam Morrison scored 24 points to lift No. 22 Gonzaga to an 85-73 victory Saturday night over No. 3 Georgia Tech in the Las Vegas Showdown.

In the opener of the doubleheader, No. 4 Oklahoma State beat UNLV 79-67.

Derek Raivio tied a career high with 21 points on 11-of-18 shooting for Gonzaga (8-1), which earned its biggest victory since beating No. 3 Missouri on Dec. 13, 2003.

During Thanksgiving weekend, Gonzaga faced No. 1 Illinois and was beaten by 17 points in the Wooden Tradition in Indianapolis.

lis.
The Bulldogs have turned

things around in a hurry.

"We looked like a JV team against Illinois," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "So our approach for this game was different. I'm proud of how we came out and played tough. You have to play tough against the great teams and

that is what we did."
Will Bynum scored a career-high 28 points, going,
9-for-16 from the field and 7-for-8
from the free throw line. But it
wasn't enough for the Yellow
Jackets (7-1), who lost for the
first time since falling to Connecticut in last season's NCAA tournament championship game.
Gonzaga led 45-41 at halftime

and then held Georgia Tech scoreless for the first 4:46 of the second half. The Bulldogs twice built leads of 15 points, the second time at 68-53 with 10:28 left.

The Yellow Jackets closed to 75-70 with 3:28 left, but Gonzaga pulled away late.

"We didn't attack their zone well," Georgia Tech coach Paul Hewitt said. "Defensively, we didn't play as well as we are capable of. They had too many chances to drive down the middle of the floor."

Ronny Turiaf had 17 points and 10 rebounds for Gonzaga and Sean Mallon added 11 points.

Sean Mallon added 11 points. B.J. Elder scored 16 points and Jarrett Jack added 15 for Georgia Tech. The Yellow Jackets' reserves outscored Gonzaga's bench players 30-4.

Georgia Tech wasn't helped by the late start time. The tip was after midnight EST, the time zone the Yellow Jackets are used to and traveled from.

"In all fairness to them, this was a hard game," Few said. "It was a 12:30 a.m. start and they had to come across the country."

Gonzaga led 14-8 before Georgia Tech went on a 22-9 run to build its largest lead of the game, 30-23 with 8:41 left in the first half. Gonzaga refused to fold, re-



Oklahoma State's John Lucas drives for the basket against UNLV guard Jerel Blassingame.

sponding with a 9-0 run of its own on the way to taking charge of the game.

No. 4 Oklahoma St. 79, UNLV 67: By halftime, Oklahoma State had shaken off the rust from a week-long break for exams. The Cowboys went on a 15-point run to erase an early four-point defi-

Joey Graham had 20 points and John Lucas added 17 for the Cowboys (8-0) as the Final Four team from a year ago remained undefeated.

"We are better than last year's team," said Graham, who led Oklahoma State with seven rebounds, "We have added so many

UNLV, down by as many as 16 points, halved the deficit to 71-63 with 1:47 to play thanks to five straight points from Romel Beck.

Seconds later, however, Ivan McFarlin's dunk capped a perfectly executed fast break in helping the Cowboys close the game on an 8-4 rm.

"We quit sharing the ball. That is not what this team is about," Graham said about letting UNLV back in the game.

McFarlin also had 17 points for the Cowboys, who forced 21 turnovers and held UNLV to 40 percent shooting in their first action since beating Alabama-Birmingham 86-73 eight days earlier. Beck had 25 points for UNLV

Beck had 25 points for UNLV (3-4) and Jerel Blassingame added 19 and nine assists. Graham and McFarlin had

seven rebounds apiece as the Cowboys held a 38-33 advantage on the boards.

"We didn't back away in the second half," UNLV coach Lon Kruger said. "We found out that we have to be more physical. "Oklahoma State is very strong

"Oklahoma State is very strong and quick, and we didn't overcome that."



Erroll Knight, left, and Adam Morrison celebrate Gonzaga's 85-73 win over Georgia Tech on Saturday night,



No. 2 Kansas holds off Gamecocks Spadafora

The Associated Descri

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Russell Robinson scored four points in the final 36 seconds, allowing No. 2 Kansas to escape with a 64-60 victory over South Carolina Saturday night in a game in which the Gamecocks led most of the way.

South Carolina (5-2), a 17-point underdog in its first road game, came out with a full-court pressure defense and seized an 11-0 lead over the fumble-fingered

Jayhawks. Kansas (7-0) committed five



turnovers and had a shot blocked in its first six possessions and didn't get its first lead until Keith

until Keith Langford fed Christian Moody inside to make it 54-52 with 5:03 to

Wayne Simien had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Kansas, despite leaving the game for about 5 minutes in the second half after injuring his right thumb. He returned with the thumb heavily taned

No. 6 Wake Forest 89, No. 14 Texas 88: At Winston-Salem, N.C., Chris Paul had 23 points and 12 assists and Eric Williams added 19 points, helping Wake

Forest (9-1) hold off Texas (7-2). Kenton Paulino missed an 18-foot jumper just before the buzzer that would have won it for the Longhorns.

No. 7 Duke 78, Oklahoma 67: At New York, J.J. Redick had 19 of his 26 points in the second half and Daniel Ewing had 12 of his 17 after halftime, leading Duke's

The Blue Devils, who trailed 39-29 at halftime, are 8-0 for the fourth time in five seasons.

No. 8 Syracuse 74, Drexel 54: At Syracuse, N.Y., Hakim Warrick scored 21 points and Darryl



Drexel's Jeremiah King is thoroughly fouled by Syracuse's Craig Forth during the first half of the eighth-ranked Orange's 74-54 victory.

Watkins had 14 points and 13 rebounds for Syracuse (9-1). The Orange won their second straight after a loss to No. 4 Oklahoma State and did it by dominating the boards against Dreyel (3-4).

No. 9 Kentucky 60, No. 13
Louisville 58: At Louisville,
Patrick Sparks made three free
throws with 0.6 seconds left to
cap his 25-point performance and
complete a comeback from a
16-point deficit by Kentucky
(7-1). Louisville (6-2) went ahead
58-57 on Larry O'Bannon's two
free throws with 15 seconds left.

No. 10 Pittsburgh 73, Coppin St. 42: At Pittsburgh, Chris Taft scored 18 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for Pittsburgh (8-0). Carl Krauser added 17 points for the Panthers.

No. 15 Arizona 48, Marquette 43: At Milwaukee, with leading scorer Salim Stoudamire benched, Arizona (7-2) relied on Chris Rodgers' 16 points and key late layup to beat Marquette (9-1). It was the Arizona's lowest

scoring output in nearly 20 years.

No. 16 lowa 88, W. Carolina
75: At Iowa City, Iowa, Jeff Horner scored 17 of his 20 points in the second half, almost single-handedly breaking open what had been a tight game.

Iowa (9-1) led by only seven after a sloppy first half, and Western Carolina (5-7) hung around for a while in the second half before Horner took over.

No. 17 Alabama 87, Tennessee St. 79: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Chuck Davis scored 24 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked seven shots to lead Alabama.

Alabama (9-1) never trailed in the game and led by as many as 25 points in the second half before Tennessee State rallied late, mostly against reserves.

Kennedy Winston scored 19 points for Alabama, while Earnest Shelton had 15

No. 19 George Washington 85, Towson 69: At Washington, D.C., Pops Mensah-Bonsu scored 15 points and Ricky Lucas added 13 of his season-high 14 points in the second half to help George Washington (7-1) win its seventh straight

Omar Williams scored 10 of his 12 points in the first 10 minutes of the second half, and finished with eight rebounds for the Colonials.

No. 20 Mississippi St. 80, Xavier 74: At Cincinnati, Winsome Frazier emerged from a deep shooting slump by scoring 20 points and No. 20 Mississippi State kept its road streak going by beating Xavier.

The Bulldogs (9-2) won their 14th straight road game, the longest current streak in Division I. Mississippi State shot a season-high 54 percent from the field.

Xavier (2-4) has lost three consecutive home games

the Snartans (6-2)

No. 21 Michigan St. 63, Delaware St. 45: At East Lansing, Mich, Chris Hill had 14 points, including four three-pointers, Kelvin Torbert added 12 points and Shannon Brown had 10 for

No. 25 Cincinnati 81, Northwestern St. 65: At Cincinnati, Jason Maxiell Scored 21 points, including 14 in the second half, to lead Cincinnati (7-0), which is ranked for the first time this sea-

The game was coach Bob Huggins' 500th at Cincinnati, where he is 381-119.

Tramaine Hancock scored 12 points and Clifton Lee added 11 to lead Northwestern State (5-5), which lost its third straight after a five-game winning streak.

Spadafora the star as Gettysburg tops Navy

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS — Mike Spadafora scored a career-high 26 points to lead Division III Gettysburg College past Division I Navy 75-69 on Saturday.

Navy (3-6) led 52-37 with 11 minutes to play but Gettysburg (3-4) went on a 17-0 run to take the lead on the way to snapping an 11-game losing streak against the Middies dating to Dec. 9, 1992

Until a one-point victory last season, the Middies had beaten the Bullets by an average of 29 points during that stretch.

The score was 63-63 with 2:35 to play when Spadafora put the Bullets ahead to stay with a free throw.

Spadafora, a transfer from Duquesne, scored 12 of his team's last 14 points including four straight free throws to ice the outcome

Navy, which made 13 of 14 free throws in the first half, made just five of 13 in the second half.

five of 13 in the second half.
The Middies also committed 25

Laramie Mergerson led Navy with 16 points and Corey Johnson added 12 points and nine rebounds.

David Hooper added 11 points and George O'Garro 10 for Navy.

Ryan Page, who had 14 points, gave the Bullets a 71-65 lead with a dunk off a steal with 1:07 to

Navy led 38-35 at the half after overcoming a 12-3 Gettysburg lead with a 24-7 run for a 27-19 lead with 6:20 to play in the first half.

ESPN says Majerus walks out on USC

BY BETH HARRIS The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Three days after being hired as the new basketball coach at Southern California, Rick Majerus backed out of the deal and will stay at ESPN as a college basketball analyst.

"Rick expressed to us that he had a change of heart and won-dered if the possibility still existed for him to work for ESPN. And it does. We told him he could," ESPN spokesman Josh Krulewitz said Saturday night.

Meisman who eited hoelth wo

Majerus, who cited health reasons when he retired in January after 15 seasons as Utah's coach, was announced as the Trojans' incoming coach last Wednesday. He was to assume the post on April 1.

Majerus did not immediately return phone messages Saturday night.

"We plan to meet with Rick on Monday. Until then, there's really nothing we can say," USC athletic director Mike Garrett said in a USC spokesman Tim Tessalone said the meeting had already been planned.

Until taking over in April, Majerus was supposed be on the basketball staff and work on recruiting, filling the assistant's job vacated when Jim Saia was promoted to interim coach after Henry Bibby's firing.

During a campus news conference following his hiring, the 56-year-old Majerus said he wasn't worried about his health.

"My health is good or I wouldn't do this," he said. "Both my doctors encouraged me to do it. I wouldn't put anyone, least of all myself, in harm's way."

Saia last saw Majerus over dinner Wednesday night, when they discussed the program's future. Majerus had soup and salad for dinner and kept apples in his hotel room, Saia said.

"He asked a lot of questions about the staff and players coming back. He just wanted to get a feel from me," Saia told The Associated Press on Saturday night, his voice still hoarse from USC's victory over Western Michigan earlier in the day.

Something apparently changed overnight Wednesday.

Majerus canceled a Thursday morning meeting with assistant coach Bob Cantu, then canceled dinner that night with assistant Firic Brown, Saia said. On Friday, Majerus canceled a meeting with the players who would still be eligible next season. He talked to the team briefly Wednesday after being introduced as the new coach

Saia said there were no reasons given for the assorted cancella-

"He left a message on my cell Friday night saying he wanted to go back to Milwaukee and spend the holidays with his family and mother," Saia said. "He said he'd see me after Christmas."

The Trojans leave for Hawaii on Sunday to play in the Rainbow Classic. They are 2-1 since Saia took over.

"It'll be great to get away and bond as a team," he said. "I'm an interim coach that maybe has a chance to coach next season. I'd love to stay at USC."

Saia said he's not concerned about the future.

"I can't control what is going to happen," he said. "You could go crazy trying to figure it all out." UCLA coach Ben Howland was

UCLA coach Ben Howland was stunned when informed of Majerus' reversal after the Bruins beat Michigan. "You're kidding me, right?"

Howland said. "I hope and will pray it's not over health issues because that was always the biggest concern. That's surprising to me because I know from listening to him how excited he was to come hack."

Majerus coached Utah to the national championship game in 1998, losing to Kentucky, one of the school's 10 NCAA tournament appearances during his tenure. His other college stints were at Ball State and Marquette. He was also an assistant with the NBA's

Milwaukee Bucks.



Former Utah coach Rick Majerus, hired last Wednesday to coach USC next season, has indicated that he's changed his mind about the job and is returning to ESPN.

SPORTS



Iverson torches Bucks for season-high 54 points,

Vick's vanquishing act





A's 'Big Three' down to 1; Mulder goes to Cards

Page 33

Falcons quarterback Michael Vick dives past Panthers linebacker Dan Morgan into the end zone for the tying touchdown. Atlanta won in overtime.

Remarkable TD run allows Falcons to win in OT

BY PAUL NEWBERRY The Associated Press

ATLANTA - The Atlanta Falcons were down to their final play. They had the right guy for that perilous position.

Michael Vick ran for a 12-vard touchdown on fourth-and-goal with less than 2 minutes left in literally flying regulation. through the air to get the Falcons to overtime. Jay Feely took it from there, kicking a 38-yard field goal for a 34-31 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Saturday night.

Atlanta snapped the Panthers' five-game winning streak, a blow to the revitalized playoff hopes for the defending NFC champions

In a game of amazing twists and turns, the Falcons (11-3) pulled off the final comeback. As usual, Vick was right in the middle of things.

"I was not frustrated after they took the lead," he said. "It just motivated me to go out there and put points on the board to win."

Carolina (6-8) got back into playoff contention after a 1-7 start, and the Panthers were as resilient as ever in this one recovering from a pair of double-digit deficits.

"It doesn't surprise me," Falcons defensive end Patrick Kerney said. "Even if we got up by 50, I figured they would fight and scratch and claw for the win."



Falcons kicker Jay Feely (4) celebrates with his teammates after kicking a 38-yard field goal in overtime to beat the Panthers.

The Panthers went ahead for the first time with a 21-point fourth quarter, only to have the Falcons show they know a thing or two about bouncing back.

Dez White got the Falcons in position for the tying score with a dazzling 54-yard reception. He caught the ball along the sideline at the Carolina 40, spun around with one hand on the turf and sprinted all the way to the 5

The Panthers knocked the ball away from Vick but Michael Jenkins recovered for the Falcons at the 2. A holding penalty knocked Atlanta back, but Vick wasn't

Vick spotted an opening up the middle and took off for the end zone, diving across with 1:37 remaining. The officials reviewed the play to see if Vick went down before he crossed the goal line,

but replays showed that he somehow kept his left knee susp about an inch above the turf as he stretched out for the end zone.

"Everyone else had their backs turned to me, so that is why I was able to make it to the end zone, Vick said. "I was lucky to get in there."

Carolina won the coin toss in overtime, only to have Jake Del-homme overthrow Ricky Proehl down the middle. Aaron Beasley made the interception and re-turned it 30 yards to the Carolina

A couple of safe runs set up Feely, who connected on third down to put the Falcons on the brink of clinching the No. 2 seed in the NFC. They wrapped up the NFC

South the previous week, just the third division title in franchise his-

The Panthers' remarkable turn-around left them sixth in the NFC - the final playoff spot - coming into the weekend. The defending conference champions are now a half-game behind St. which plays at Arizona on Sun-

"This team has a lot of heart, coach John Fox said. "They all fought hard. We just came up

Vick had an erratic game, going just 11-for-28 for 154 yards with a couple of interceptions. On the flip side, he threw a pair of TD passes and ran eight times for 68 yards.

SEE VICK ON PAGE 32



Wounded troops get up close. personal with Mays

Page 29



Gonzaga still has some zip. upsets No. 3 Georgia Tech

Page 34

Heidelberg sweeps titles in K-town tournament Page 29

